



BADGER STATE

SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 29th Year
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In this issue:

One for the record book!

OFFICIAL RESULTS

"GREAT
CONTESTANT
RESPONSE!"



1998 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY

Listings start on page 7

Sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club

League calls members to action on 70 cm petition

The ARRL says the recent Land Mobile Communications Council petition seeking access to 70 cm is "incompatible with continued amateur use of the band" and urges members to comment in opposition -- not only to the FCC but to the LMCC's members. The LMCC has petitioned the FCC for immediate reallocation of 420 to 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service. Amateur Radio enjoys the use of 70 cm on a secondary basis to government radiolocation (military radar). The LMCC has proposed to share the two subbands with Amateur Radio, but has not said how sharing would be possible. The LMCC also seeks additional UHF reallocations in the intermediate and long term.

For those planning to file comments, specific information and recommendations plus a copy of the LMCC petition and a list of LMCC members are available on the ARRL Web page at <http://www.arrl.org/>.

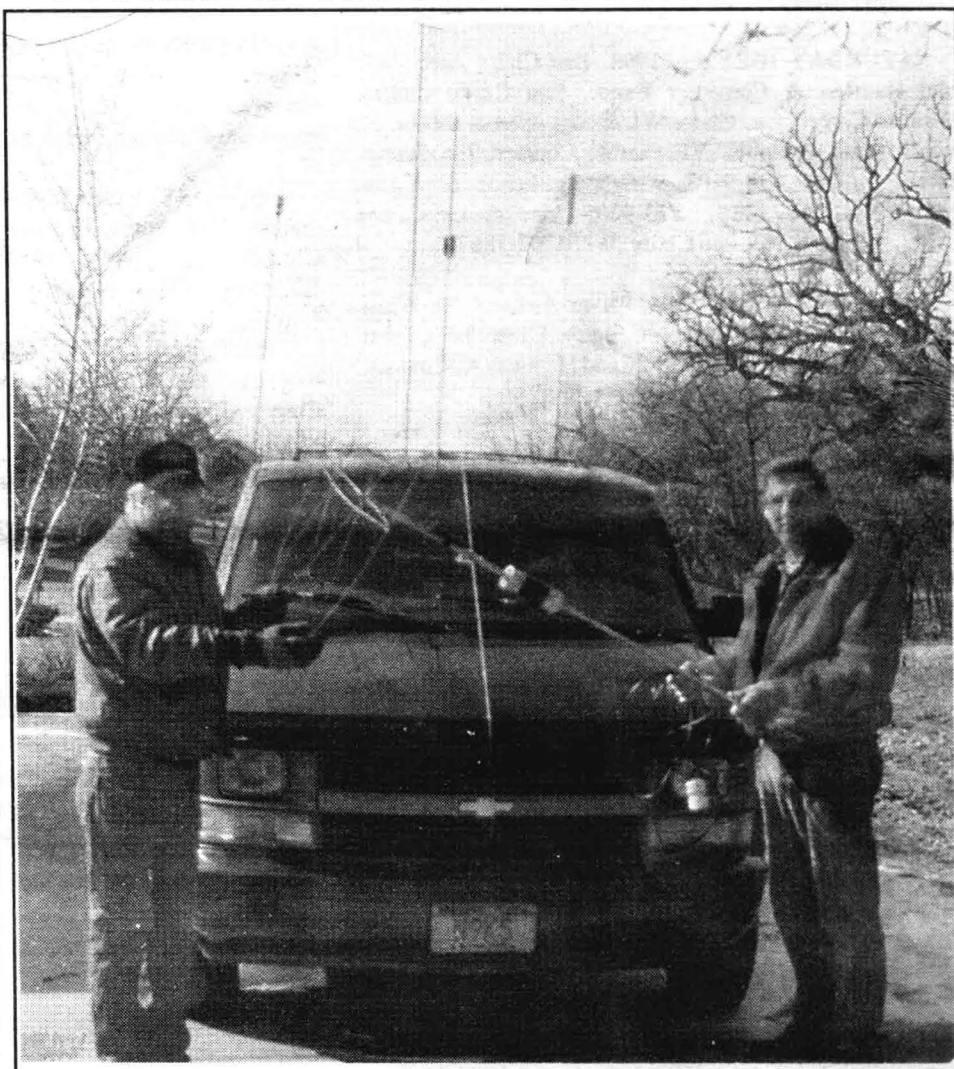
Commenters should explain how the loss of access to 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 MHz would affect them personally and how it would affect the ability of hams to provide needed public service. "Even if you do not use these segments yourself, it is likely that loss of access would result in more crowding and interference in the part of the band, or in another band, that you do use," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Don't overlook the fact that if you use linked voice or packet systems, it is quite likely that some of the links you rely on are in either or both of these segments."

Additionally, amateurs involved in public service communication can ask the government and nongovernment agencies they assist for written statements of support. Hams also should urge Amateur Radio organizations, especially those with interests in the 420 to 450 MHz band, to comment as well.

Please turn to page 14

1998 WQP/N9KS, N9EZ:

What a Rock 'n Roll Ride!



That's Jack, N9EZ, at left, and Ken Secora, N9KS, at right.

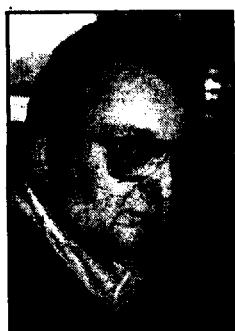
Photo courtesy N9KS

All we can say is WOW! What a ride. on 40 was hot, and the phone activity 1998 proved to be our best ever. We could not believe the action on the bands. CW

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

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✕ Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • kebnetter@palacenet.net

Swapfests and Other Social Events

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1998. 21st annual Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs Swapfest and Auction, U.S. Army Reserve Center, Junction City, WI. Contact: John Feltz, W9JN, 973 E First St., Junction City, WI 54443-9614. (715) 457-2506. e-mail jfw9jn@tznnet.com

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1998. South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest, American Legion Park, Shepard Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI. Starting at 6:00 a.m. Tickets \$5.00, Food, drinks, Camping, etc. Contact South Milwaukee ARC, P.O. Box 102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172. (414) 762-3235.

SATURDAY JULY 11, 1998. Eau Claire ARC 15th annual Hamfest & Computer Expo., Eau Claire County Exposition Center, Eau Claire WI. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Advance setup available. VE exams. Contact: Jim Staatz, WB9RBP, (715) 838-9108 wb9rbp@aol.com or Carol Ceraso, N9UTA, (715) 723-9205 ceraz@execpc.com ECARC, PO Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867.

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 1998. Racine Amateur Radio and Computer Show. South Hills Country Club, I-94, East Frontage Road between Highway 20 and Highway K. Contact: RACARC, PO Box 3, Racine, WI 53401.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 1998. The Marshfield Area Radio Society will be holding their 7th annual picnic in the park, Hamnic potluck dinner and swapfest at Wildwood Park. Gather around 11:00 a.m. Bring a dish to pass. Contact: Christopher Strong, KB9NMH OR Guy Boucher, 107 West Third Street, Marshfield WI 54449. (715) 384-4323. Via packet radio to KF9XXX@W9IHW.E5.AI.WI.USA.NA or e-mail guyboucher@tznnet.com

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 1998. Hamfesters Hamfest, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL. Contact: David F Brasel, NF9N, 6933 W. 110 Street, Worth, IL 60482. (708)

44-0580. Amateur Radio Info Line (708) 535 AHAM.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1998. Circus City Swapfest, Sauk County Fairgrounds, Baraboo WI. Contact: Steve Schulze, N9UDO, (608) 356-2313/356-4777 or Bill Klinkner, N9KXX, (608) 643-6908/643-6453. http://www.thelorax.com/~sschulze/hamfest.htm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1998. International Order of bOzOs 2nd Hamradio and Computer Fest. at Tommy's Village Lanes, Hwy 57. North, Hilbert, WI. Contact: Mike Ortlieb, KN9P, W2104 Crosstown Rd., Hilbert, WI 54129. (920) 853-7073.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 1998. Peoria Area ARC SUPERFEST, Exposition Gardens, Peoria IL. Contact: Superfest '98, P.O. Box 3508, Peoria IL 61616-3508.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 & 27. RADIO EXPO 98. Lake County Fairgrounds Rts. 45 & 120, Grayslake, IL. Contact: Chicago FM Club, PO Box 56724, Harwood Hts. IL. 560656-0724. (708) 457-0966. http://www.chicagofmclub.org

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1998. Fox Cities Hamfest, Starlite Club, Hwy. 55 North of Kaukauna, WI. Contact: Chad Pennings, N9PRC, 1912 Russett Ct., Apt. 7, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 993-0485.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1999. West Allis Radio Amateur Club, 27th annual Midwinter Swapfest, Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. Contact: WARAC, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1072.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1999. Red Cedar Repeater Association Auction. American Legion Post 53, 634 Water Street, Eau Claire, WI. Contact: Steve Hart, KA9OMC, E616 810th Ave., Knapp, WI 54749. (715) 665-2374.

See also the back page and flyer ads for additional information on many of these events.

Let us know of your dates as soon as you know them. We will list them and perhaps help avoid conflicts with other

events.

As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our advertising pages. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.



CLUB MEETINGS

Due to space limitations, we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. Please see the March 1998 meetings column for the latest complete listing. The following changes have been reported to BSSS since that listing.

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

June 06, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
June 06, 1998	Racine, WI
June 06, 1998	St. Paul, MN
June 07, 1998	Stevens Point, WI
June 11, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
June 13, 1998	Blaine, MN
June 13, 1998	Madison, WI
June 13, 1998	Marshfield, WI
June 13, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
June 16, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
June 20, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
June 20, 1998	Loves Park, IL
June 20, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
June 27, 1998	Bloomington, MN
June 27, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
June 27, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
July 04, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
July 04, 1998	St. Paul, MN
July 09, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
July 11, 1998	Blaine, MN
July 11, 1998	Madison, WI
July 11, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
July 15, 1998	Sheboygan, WI
July 18, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
July 18, 1998	Loves Park, IL
July 18, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
July 21, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
July 25, 1998	Bloomington, MN
July 25, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
July 25, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
August 01, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
August 01, 1998	St. Paul, MN
August 08, 1998	Blaine, MN
August 08, 1998	Madison, WI
August 08, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
August 13, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
August 15, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
August 15, 1998	Loves Park, IL
August 15, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
August 15, 1998	Redgranite, WI
August 18, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
August 22, 1998	Bloomington, MN
August 29, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
August 29, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
September 05, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
September 05, 1998	Racine, WI

Badger State Smoke Signals

*Amateur Radio
Education and Information*

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EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Dave Knaus, WA9POV; Don Evenson, K9JYX.

Subscriptions

1 year	(12 issues)	\$13.95
2 years	(24 issues - save \$1.95)	\$25.95
3 years	(36 issues - save \$3.90)	\$37.95

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than

the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter. Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. THIS CREDIT IS MANDATORY, AND NO MATERIAL MAY BE PRINTED OR POSTED UNLESS IT IS GIVEN.

This newspaper is produced by volunteer radio amateurs, and is non-profit. This newspaper is mailed from Portage, WI 53901.

Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

September 10, 1998 Apple Valley, MN
 September 12, 1998 Blaine, MN
 September 12, 1998 Madison, WI
 September 12, 1998 Marshfield, WI
 September 12, 1998 Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
 September 12, 1998 Onalaska, WI
 September 12, 1998 Sheboygan, WI
 September 15, 1998 Eden Prairie, MN
 September 19, 1998 Appleton, WI
 September 19, 1998 Cottage Grove, MN
 September 19, 1998 Loves Park, IL
 September 19, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 September 26, 1998 Bloomington, MN
 September 26, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 September 26, 1998 Tomahawk, WI
 October 17, 1998 Redgranite, WI
 October 17, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 November 01, 1998 Kaukauna, WI
 November 07, 1998 Menomonie, WI
 November 07, 1998 Onalaska, WI
 November 18, 1998 Sheboygan, WI
 November 21, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 December 19, 1998 Redgranite, WI
 December 19, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 January 23, 1999 Appleton, WI
 January 16, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 February 20, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 March 20, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 April 15, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 Monthly, 1st Sat. Racine, WI
 (except January, July & August)
 Monthly, 1st Sat. Oshkosh (Omro), WI
 Monthly, 1st Sat. St. Paul, MN
 Monthly, 2nd Thu. Apple Valley, MN
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Madison, WI
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Blaine, MN
 Monthly, 3rd Tue. Eden Prairie, MN
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Loves Park, IL
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Cottage Grove, MN
 Monthly, 4th Sat. Bloomington, MN
 Monthly, Last Sat. Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 (except December)
 Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI
 (January thru October only)
 Quarterly Marshfield, WI
 (Second Saturday every third month.)
 Quarterly Eau Claire, WI
 (Second Saturday Jan., Apr., & Oct.),
 plus annual summer hamfest.)

Many Swapfests/Hamfests offer exam sessions. If not shown above contact the sponsoring club in the Swapfest column on page 2.

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE to the VEC. A copy of your license must be attached to your FCC form 610. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

GENERAL RULES

FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors in the event there are changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.

Some examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL. Send a 32c/ SASE if you request one from the ARRL. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$6.35 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE or CSCE to the VEC. You must also have two good copies of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 610 and most VEC want a copy for their records. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.

Additional information is given below.

For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

By checking this page, a person can find out registered VE sessions anywhere in US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC, it is a master database. (Thanks to KB9EQI for information.)

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB
(MRAC/VEC)

SECOND SATURDAY - OAK CREEK, WI
 LAST SATURDAY - MILWAUKEE, WI

SECOND SATURDAY DATE: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at

Wauwatosa Savings Bank, 6560 S. 27th St., Oak Creek, WI.

LAST SATURDAY DATES: (except December): 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI. Note: For Additional Information: Call (414) 466-HAMS (Answering Machine).

Bring along your ORIGINAL license, CSCE (if any) and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$6.35 for the exam fee. WALK-INS are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card: Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number. Send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, PO Box 25707, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE

Badger Examiners group tests at AES (Amateur Electronic Supply) at 60th and Good Hope, every third Saturday MORNING. Exam times are 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the old Sterman Printing shop, just 300 feet west of the AES store. Novice to Extra are offered, and all test materials are provided. Fee is \$6.35, and bring your original license, or CSCE if needed. Also available are Commercial license exams GROL (General Radiotelephone license), GMDSS, Telegraph, Etc. Fee is \$35.00. For more information call Gary Sharbuno, WI9M at (414) 355-0237.

MADISON, WI

VE exams are held in Madison every second Saturday morning of the month at 8 a.m. They are held at the operations building of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District at 1610 Moorland Rd. To get there take the Beltline (Hwy 12 & 18) to South Towne Drive. Go south 8/10 mile till South Towne Drive makes a bend and becomes Moorland Rd. and enter at gate.

You should bring a picture ID, your original licence and a copy of your licence. For exams beyond the novice tests, bring a check for \$6.35, made out to the ARRL/VEC. If the special 610 form with the medical exemption is required, contact me beforehand to obtain one. No appointments are necessary to take exams. For further questions, please leave a message on the mailbox or phone me at (608) 832-6631.

Mark Jenks, NZ9B

RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August.

Monthly exams are given 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted.

Talk in on 147.87/27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert N. Jensen, W0WLN, 5616 Cambridge lane #6, Racine, WI. Telephone (414) 886-8551.

TOMAHAWK, WI

Last Saturday of every month, Jan. thru Oct.

Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No preregistration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testings starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633.

APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC MANITOWOC, WI (HAMFEST) KAUKAUNA, WI (HAMFEST)

Conducted by the Fox Cities ARC VE team. All test sessions in Appleton are held at James Madison Jr. High, 2020 S. Carpenter Street. Testing starting at 8 a.m. For Appleton information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. For Manitowoc or Kaukauna information, contact Larry Siebers, KD9IA (920) 759-1167.

STEVENS POINT, WI (ARRL/VE) CWRA SWAPFEST

Contact Joe Larson, N9JW evenings at (715) 344-1182.

PEWAUKEE, WI

Kettle Moraine Exam Team. Held at the Pewaukee WCTC Campus Science Building, Room S101. 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Contact Al Johnson, AA7CS. (414) 568-0836. 103357.3222@COMPUSERV.COM

OSHKOSH (OMRO)

The Oshkosh VE Team will administer Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon at the Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walk-ins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.35. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987. e-mail lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

EAU CLAIRE

The Eau Claire ARC will hold exam sessions on the second Saturday in the months of January, April, and October, as well as on the date of their annual hamfest during the summer. For further information contact: Carl F. Searing, W9NW, 1129 Mc

Kinley Road, Eau Claire, WI 54703-2219. (715) 834-1303.

REDGRANITE, WI (W5YI/VEC)

The Radio Amateurs of Wisconsin (RAW) will be holding test sessions at the Civic Center in Redgranite, 202 Pine River Road, one block from Highway 21. Turn north by Mosier's Sporting GoodsR store. Registration at 9:00 a.m. Bring two forms of identification, \$6.35 per test, two copies of all original documents, CSCE's, Licenses, etc. along with original documents. For further information, contact: Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662 or Mike O'Connor, K9II (920) 231-7093.

WISCONSIN DELLS, WI

Wisconsin Dells City Hall, City Council Chambers. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact: K9WD, (608) 254-2895.

HUDSON, WI

Testing is held at the St. Croix County emergency government Center on Carmichael road in Hudson, WI. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and testing begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Greg Miller, KB9JHL, 503 4th St., Hudson, WI 54016. (715) 386-9857.

MARSHFIELD, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Sponsored by the Marshfield Area ARS. Held at St. Joseph Hospital, 611 St. Joseph Ave., in the 1 West classroom located adjacent to the Westwood Cafeteria on the main floor of the hospital. Use the main entrance or any other entrance and follow the signs to the cafeteria. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with testing starting at 9:00 a.m. Talk in on the 147.18 Marshfield repeater. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Walter Friant, WB0KIN, 2310 Wallonie Drive, Marshfield, WI 54449 (715) 387-3870.

SHEBOYGAN, WI

Wednesday dates: Registration 1830 hrs, testing 1900 hrs.

Saturday dates: Registration 0830 hrs, testing 0900 hrs.

Testing site is: Red Cross/Boy Scout Office Building (lower level), 2032 Erie Ave., Sheboygan, WI.

Test site has limited handicap accessibility. Walking are OK but preregistration would be appreciated. Test fee is \$6.35. Make checks payable to SCARC VE Testing. All class tests administered. Contact: Art Pahr, K9XJ, (920) 876-2370. e-mail <k9xj@excel.net>

ONALASKA, WI (ARRL/VEC)

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club will hold test sessions at the Onalaska Public Library, 741 Oak Avenue. Registration begins at 9:0 a.m. with testing at 9:15 a.m. Please bring two forms of identification and two copies of all original documents, CSCEs, license, etc. For more information contact: Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 526 13th Ave. N., Onalaska, WI 54650. (608) 783-0732.

MEDFORD, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Taylor County Area AREC. Registration starts 8:30 a.m., testing starts 9:00 a.m. Location: The conference room in the lower level of the Sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Take Ogden St. west off of Hwy. 13 to the courthouse. Park in the lots on the east or south sides of the courthouse or on

the street. PLEASE use the entrance on the south side of the courthouse and watch of the signs. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, 2373 Willow Ave., Medford, WI 54451. (715) 748-4054

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL (ARRL/VEC)

Contact: Frank Stankiewicz, (847) 437-1464.

CEDARBURG, WI - ORC HAMFEST
 EAU CLAIRE, WI - ECARC HAMFEST
 GREEN BAY, WI - ARES HAMFEST
 HAYWARD, WI - HAYWARD HAMFEST
 KAUKAUNA, WI - SWAPFEST
 MANITOWOC, WI - LAKESHORE HAMFEST
 MARSHFIELD, WI - HAMFEST
 OAK CREEK, WI - SMARC HAMFEST
 RACINE, WI - RACINE HAMFEST
 RHINELANDER, WI - NWARC SWAPFEST
 ROCKFORD, IL - RARC HAMFEST
 ROTHSCHILD, WI - WVRA HAMFEST
 SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI - SMARC HAMFEST
 STEVENS POINT, WI - CWRA SWAPFEST
 WAUKESHA, WI - KMRA SWAPFEST
 WAUKESHA, WI - MIDWINTER SWAPFEST
 DUBUQUE, IA - HAMFEST See the Swapfest column for additional information and contact persons.

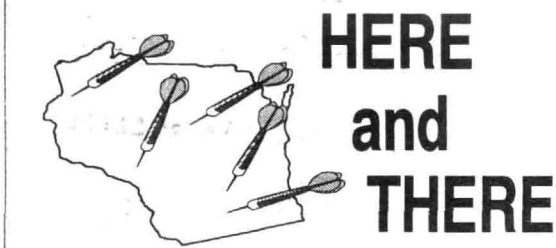
DUBUQUE, IA - ARRL/VEC

Dubuque Hamfest. Contact: Carl Clark, N0KAX, 2145 Delicia Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001. (319) 557-9149.

LOVES PARK, IL

Third Saturday of every month. Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC). Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. Contact: Dennis G. Eksten, W9SS, (815) 877-6768.

(continued on page 23)



HERE and THERE

Law maker wants new type license plates by 2000

MADISON, WI (AP) - A lawmaker wants Wisconsin motorists to start the next century with new license plates.

Faded, dirt-encrusted license plates make life difficult for law enforcement officers, Assembly Majority Leader Steven Foti said Wednesday. (BSSS editor's note: You can get a replacement set of plates for a very reasonable fee from DOT.)

The Oconomowoc Republican wants the state to give all motorists new license plates in the year 2000. Foti said his proposal wouldn't cost drivers any more than they already pay to register their vehicles.

The change would make it tough for motorists to avoid renewing vehicle registration, because the new plates would be issued when drivers re-register, Foti said.

He also wants to standardize license plates. Instead of having special license plates for veterans and university employees, for example, those groups would get a standard plate with a special decal on it. That doesn't mean motorists will have to hang up their sesquicentennial license plates on the garage wall. Foti's proposal would exempt the special plates honoring Wisconsin's 150th birthday.

(Another editor's note: The State of Wisconsin makes a ton of money with special plates. This proposal, while doubtlessly would make police officers' work easier. However, most of us have them [Amateur Radio plates] for ID when going into a disaster for communications assistance. I speak from experience when I went thru three road blocks to get into Barneveld after the tornado there. Those plates are crucial to us. And, if dirty or faded plates are on a vehicle, replace them. I did.)

(This is more unneeded legislation. Perhaps requiring us to change plates every five years would make more sense, and the special plate money bin would remain full to the brim.)

Stevens Point Journal

Forwarded to BSSS by Mike Pagel, K9UW

Virginia's new tower law attracts attention

Virginia's newly enacted Amateur Radio antenna law got some prominent ink in The Washington Post on May 4. In an article, "Virginia Hams to Reach New Heights," writer Dan Eggen describes how Virginia's new law "trumps stricter limits imposed by local governments such as Arlington County, which has limited towers to 58 feet in many residential neighborhoods." The new law, which goes into effect July 1, incorporates the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. But it also includes the most generous regulatory limit on the height of towers installed in Virginia's rural areas--200 feet. In urban areas, the regulatory minimum is 75 feet. Eggen's article says the legislation "makes Virginia the most permissive state in the nation when it comes to Amateur Radio antennas."

Among those quoted in the article was Bob Ham, KK4IY, of Vinton. The aptly-named Ham was the individual who started the ball rolling, then kept up the momentum, to get the tower law enacted in the face of fierce opposition from local and county government

lobbies. Also getting mention was ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. Imlay predicted that Virginia's law will "inspire similar proposals elsewhere." ARRL SEC and Virginia State RACES officer Frank Mackey, K4EC, of Springfield, said "dam few hams" can afford to put up a 200-foot tower. "All anybody was looking for was a reasonable solution, and I think this is reasonable," he's quoted as saying.

Eggen's article includes a graphic that compares the relative heights of a typical two-story house, a lamp post, a power pole, a high-voltage electric tower and both 75-foot (urban limit) and 200-foot (rural limit) Amateur Radio towers. The 200-foot structure towers above the others. Virginia has more than 16,400 hams.

The ARRL Letter, 5/8/97

AB 680, AB 754 gone - for now

Assembly bills AB 680 and AB 754 are officially dead - until the next legislative session. The two bills could have had made it illegal to operate a "telecommunications device" while driving. One of the bills exempted police and other public service operations.

On April 2, 1998, the senate passed its "housekeeping" bill, which empties the legislative waste basket.

A recent look at those bills says "failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1".

Both were proposed by Sheboygan-area representatives. And they will be reintroduced at the next session. Thus, when they reconvene we have to be on our guard.

(Editor's note: I spoke with an aide in Rep. Baumgart's office which resulted in a followup letter thanking me for my input and that he will consider rewording the bill so that any inattentive driving of any kind which results in great bodily harm or death. I suggested the bills were too broad and offered the above alternative.

We have all seen by now people putting on their makeup, people reading their newspapers, and so on. Thus, directly targeting mobile communications use will - at least in theory - won't be part of a new bill.)

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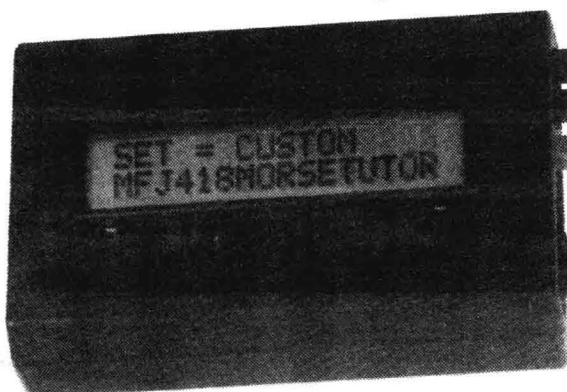
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Silent Keys

Adrian J. Van Der Burgt (Ade, K9-DHR), W2641 Evergreen Drive, Kaukauna, age 61, died unexpectedly Saturday afternoon April 25, 1998.

He was born October 5, 1936 in Little Chute, WI to Martin A. and Veronica M. (Eisch) Van Der Burgt. Ade graduated from St. John High School in 1954. He married the former Carol J. Watry on September 14, 1963 at St. John Catholic Church. He retired in 1995 after 40 years of service at Thilmany Pulp and Paper Company in Kaukauna. He was a retired Chief Radioman from the United States Naval Reserve with 24 years of service. He was also an active member of the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, Navy Amateur Radio Club, and various other ham radio organizations.

Survivors include his wife Carol of 34 years; a son Martin (Jay) of Richmond Indiana; his mother Veronica (Van Der Burgt) Sanders of Little Chute; a brother James (Ethel) Van Der Burgt of Kaukauna; four sisters JoAnn (Bill) Ebben of Kaukauna; Judy (Ralph) Hendricks of DePere; Rose (Ron) Garvey of Appleton; Bernadel (Earl) Green of Kaukauna; his mother-in-law Beatrice E. Watry of Little Chute; two brothers-in-law Richard (Debra) Watry of Appleton; Gary Watry of Little Chute; three sisters-in-law Geraldine (Donald) DeGoey of Kimberly; Linda (David)

Hietpas of Little Chute; Judy Watry of Little Chute. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father, Martin (1966), and father-in-law, Giles P. Watry (1982).

The family wishes to thank neighbors, medical personnel, and the Amateur Radio community for their assistance and support.

Marty Van Der Burgt, KA9MSR

Frank Guth, W9BCC, Stevens Point, passed away peacefully on May 8. He will be fondly remembered by his friends in central Wisconsin and throughout the world. Frank was licensed in 1947.

He took part in many emergency and simulated disasters, local, state and national.

He was instrumental in organizing a club, the "Point Radio Amateurs", in 1947 and in reorganizing the club in 1977. The club is now the Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs. He was active in the club for many years. He also organized a QCWA chapter.

Joe Larson, N9JW/Bob Baird, W9NN

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Local CB bill passes Senate....

A bill giving state and local governments the power to enforce federal regulations covering illegal CB transmitters has passed the US Senate. Senate Bill 608, introduced by Wisconsin Sen Russell Feingold, was incorporated as an amendment into S 1618, the Consumer Anti-Slamming Act, approved May 12 on a 99-to-1 vote (Sen Biden not voting). The measure, as redrafted from the original bill with assistance from the ARRL, totally exempts Amateur Radio from its provisions.

The measure requires the FCC to provide technical guidance and includes an appeals process.

It's not yet known if or when the entire bill will come up for a vote in the House of Representatives.

In remarks read into the Congressional Record of May 12, Feingold spoke about his cooperation with the ARRL and with hams in Wisconsin and said the amendment incorporates a number of provisions suggested by the League.

"First, the amendment makes clear that the limited enforcement authority provided to localities in no way diminishes or affects FCC's exclusive jurisdiction over the regulation of radio," he said.

"Second, the amendment clarifies that the possession of an FCC license to operate a radio service for the operation at issue, such as an amateur station, is complete protection against any local law enforcement action authorized by this amendment."

Feingold pointed out Amateur Radio's tradition as a self-regulatory service. "The ARRL is very involved in resolving interference concerns both among their own members and between ham operators and residents experiencing problems," he said.

Feingold introduced his original version of the bill nearly two years ago after receiving complaints from constituents about interference from illegal CB transmitters. In 1996, the City of Beloit, Wisconsin, passed an ordinance giving the city the power to enforce FCC regulations concerning CB interference.

Put your QSL into orbit

AMSAT is offering a chance for hams worldwide to become a part of the Phase 3D Amateur Radio satellite program by putting their QSL cards into orbit! As part of its "Fly Your QSL on Phase 3D" fund-raising campaign, AMSAT-NA is collecting QSL cards -- accompanied by a minimum \$25 donation to the Phase 3D effort -- to put into space. Cards submitted will be scanned and converted into digital images, then saved on a computer CD-ROM that will be launched with the Phase 3D satellite.

AMSAT-NA Vice President Keith Baker, KB1SF, called it "a unique and relatively inexpensive way to encourage people who haven't already donated to the Phase 3D project to do so." Participants are welcome to contribute more than the minimum, Baker said, adding "and we'd be most grateful for the support."

Baker says that, due to the uncertainty of the Phase 3D launch status, "This fundraiser may have to be curtailed if we get a quick call to button up the satellite and prepare it for immediate launch." He encouraged interested hams to submit their cards and donations as soon as possible. Proceeds from the Fly Your QSL campaign will help raise the additional money needed to complete, test, and launch the satellite.

Baker said that AMSAT still has no definitive word on a launch date or vehicle for Phase 3D. "High-level negotiations with the European Space Agency and ArianeSpace are continuing in earnest on our behalf," he said.

To fly your QSL card aboard Phase 3D, send your card and donation to Fly Your QSL on Phase 3D, c/o AMSATNA, 850 Sligo Ave, Suite 600, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4703 USA. Checks or money orders should be made out to AMSAT. Do not send cash.

The ARRL Letter, 5/14/98

Haller to PMRS: Look elsewhere for spectrum

Former FCC Private Radio Bureau chief turned communications consultant Ralph Haller says he supports the goals of the petition -- now designated RM-9267 -- recently filed by the Land Mobile Communications Council. But Haller, who's N4RH, also believes that the Private Mobile Radio Service ought to look somewhere other than the 70 cm band to satisfy its immediate spectrum needs. "If I had my druthers, I would not go after amateur spectrum, I would go after federal spectrum," he said, adding that he recently bought a dual-band mobile transceiver.

The LMCC has requested that the FCC immediately reallocate 420 to 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz segments from the federal government to the PMRS. Amateur Radio enjoys secondary status on the band. Haller said there's plenty of spectrum between 225 and 400 MHz that -- to his way of thinking at least -- is "not being used efficiently by the federal government."

Haller -- whose clients include two LMCC members -- said his quoted remarks in a recent issue of Wireless Week had "nothing to do with ham radio" and failed to

Special event station

Special event station W9DK (ManCoRad radio club) in Manitowoc, WI, will be operating from the WWII submarine "USS Cobia" to commemorate the 54th anniversary of its first war patrol in the Pacific. Date and time: August 15th (Saturday) from 1400-2000Z (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) on 7250 and 14,250 kHz SSB.

For certificate: send QSL and #10 SASE to: Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, 4932 So. 10th St., Manitowoc, WI 54220-9121.

Guest operators are more than welcome to come aboard and participate if in the area. The sub is located at the maritime museum in downtown Manitowoc.

Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF

reflect his full views on the issue. He said he raised some of his concerns about the direction of the LMCC petition before it was filed but was not in a position to do anything about it. But he emphasized that he supports its general aims.

"I certainly support the goals of the LMCC petition, but I would recommend that they look to other spectrum to satisfy that need," he said.

Haller said the LMCC petition represents "a serious issue for the amateur community." While he was at the FCC, Haller got a chance to see similar circumstances firsthand during the fight for 220 MHz. "The toughest decisions for the FCC are spectrum decisions," he said. **The ham community needs to convince the FCC that Amateur Radio is making "the highest and best use of this band."**

Haller said that from the FCC's perspective, the 220 MHz fight "was not a pretty sight." He said hams take challenges to their bands personally. "It's quite a different sort of fight," he said. "It's like taking away part of their lives." While hams lost the 220 MHz fight, Haller said the Amateur Radio community demonstrated a real ability to muster support for its side.

The ARRL Letter, 5/20/98

ARRL requests special event call sign rules changes

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC for changes in the administration of the special event call sign program. The League wants the FCC to amend its rules to permit the use of additional special event call sign formats to complement the current one-by-one (1x1) format now authorized.

The petition also asks the Commission to include call signs denoting US territories and possessions having no mailing address within the special event program. Use of those call signs would be limited to locations corresponding to and denoted by the call sign.

The special event call sign program is administered by several private sector coordinators, including the ARRL. Those wanting a special event call sign for a limited period are able to reserve one via the Internet. Under current rules, 750 combinations of 1x1 format call signs are available for limited periods. Stations operating with special event call signs still must identify with the station's regularly assigned call sign at one-hour intervals.

According to the petition, demand for special event call signs has been low. In the first seven months of the program, only 237 call sign reservations had been coordinated. But, the League says, there has been significant demand for special event call signs outside of the 1x1 format and for DXpeditions to locations under US jurisdiction which do not have US Postal Service mailing addresses. The League also says there's "a great deal of interest" in additional special event call sign formats that would let the call sign symbolize a particular event or type of event.

The petition requests that the FCC make available to the special event call sign program several additional call sign blocks not currently used for amateur primary

Renewable energy fair coming in June

By Richard Perez, N7BCR

On June 19-21, 1998, Amateur Radio ops will have a special event station operating at the 1998 Midwest Renewable Energy Fair (MREF) at the Portage County Fairgrounds in Amherst, Wisconsin. This will be the ninth consecutive year for the MREF, the largest fair of this type in the world. MREF is about the small scale use of renewable energy technologies such as solar (PV), wind, and microhydro. This fair attracts over 10,000 people for all over the world.

This is the first year that the many Hams who attend MREF will have an operating station. This station will operate on all bands and most modes. We'll even have ATV working from the fairgrounds! All electricity will be supplied by the MREF's extensive wind and PV systems.

Our objectives are to expose the fair goers, who are already using independent renewable energy, to the world of independent communications -- ham radio, and to expose hams to the reliability and wonder of renewable energy. Hams interested may contact either Bill, KA9SWW <dbill@uic.edu>, or Richard, N7BCR, richard.perez@homepower.org >.

station identification. Specifically, the League wants the Commission to include 1x1 call signs with a letter X suffix as well as 1xx1, Nxx2, and 1xx3 formats, as part of the special event program. The use of the Nxx2 format avoids conflicts with TV translator call sign assignments, which start with K or W.

The ARRL also asked that call signs appropriate to US territories and possessions such as Deseccho Island near Puerto Rico or Kingman Reef in the Pacific be made available to DXpeditions for limited periods.

The League's petition says the proposed changes would "permit significantly increased flexibility in private sector special event call sign administration without any adverse impact."

A comment period will be announced when the FCC assigns an RM number to the League's petition.

The ARRL Letter, 5/20/98

SAREX at science teachers' confab

The Space Amateur Radio EXperiment -- SAREX -- program had a presence in the NASA booth at the recent National Science Teachers Association convention in Las Vegas. ARRL Educational Activities Coordinator Dan Miller, K3UFG, was on hand to help explain the value of ham radio as an educational tool to the approximately 18,500 attendees. Aply assisting were Ken and Linda Chaffee, WA1QXR and N1XHT, respectively. Ken is a retired teacher and active AMSAT enthusiast. Also pitching in were ARRL Southwestern Division Director Fried Heyn, WA6WZO, and his wife, Sandi, WA6WZN. Miller says he came away from the convention with a feeling that the exhibit had helped make more teachers and administrators aware of ham radio's classroom potential.

--Dan Miller, K3UFG

The ARRL Letter, 5/20/98

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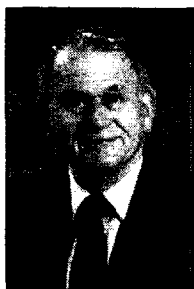
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JUNE 1998

The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive
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(414) 284-9346
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SKAPLAN @ MCW.EDU



No. 55: How to Recycle a Computer (And learn something in the Process)

I am fortunate in that my pre-retirement employer saves discarded computers for me; I rebuild these and distribute them among my OZARES members for use in emergency communications via amateur packet.

The constant stream of used computers that come my way provide me with information not available to many people. It gives me a pretty good idea of the level of upgrade activity going on out there. Furthermore, another insight available to me is the type of computer that my 50-plus OZARES members (and other non-hams that I occasionally donate to) are willing to accept.

I point all this out to back up the following statement: the XT and 286 computers are dead as computing devices. No one, including most schools, wants them anymore. Essentially all of my hams are using 386, 486 or even Pentiums for packet service. You just cannot give away an XT or 286 computer anymore.

So, what to do? It is definitely a bad thing to just put them out with the garbage. They will just wind up in a landfill, leaching copper from the wires, cadmium or mercury from the batteries and plating, tin, lead and even gold from the contacts. We don't need any more metallic ions polluting our water table. Therefore, I suggest you do a little personal recycling, which will greatly reduce (but not totally prevent) pollution from the device. It is even a learning experience. Here is how.

Remove the screws holding the cover on the case and take the cover off. Remove the cover screws holding on the plastic face and throw the plastic in the garbage. Look inside the case for any on-board batteries. In 286s, you will usually find them stuck with Velcro to the side of the power supply, with leads plugged in to pins very near the keyboard socket. Some XT's have "button batteries" (they look like watch batteries but are larger in diameter) in a socket on one of the adapter cards or right on the motherboard. Stick some tape on the battery contacts so they can't short out, and put them aside until your next trip to your hardware store. Most good hardware stores have a box for batteries that they mail to a recycling center when full. There is no charge to you or the hardware store for this service.

Next, remove every screw you can find. Pull those holding the adapter cards, the power supply, the hard and floppy drives, and don't forget the two holding in the motherboard. Unplug every plug you can find - speaker, drive cables, power plugs, and so on. Take everything out of the case. Put the disemboweled case and its cover aside. If your community has a steel recycling bin (typically at the highway department), drop off the case and cover when you have a chance.

Roll up the floppy and hard drive cables into a tight, compact roll and use masking tape to hold them that way. Save them in your junk box - they may prove useful in the future (for example, the floppy drive cables from an old 286 will work just fine in a Pentium). Snip off the connectors from each end of all the other wire runs and save the wires for your next homebrew project. Take all the circuit boards to the next swapfest and put them on a table with a FREE sign. Give one or two to a science teacher to use

very least, pull all the little jumpers off the pins before discarding the boards. Someone, if not you, can use a stock of these tiny items. Store them in a pill bottle.

Open the power supply and remove every nut and machine screw in sight. Save the wire as you did before. Put the fuse in your junk box (yep, there is one in there; look for it). If you homebrew, desolder any 3-pin regulators, transistors or other parts you might use and put everything in your junk box. Put the steel case of the power supply with the computer case for recycling. Remove the fan and save it if it is a 12-volt model; many modern ham rigs use exactly the same fan to cool their interior. If the fan uses 110 volts, you can use it to move the air in your basement. I have two hanging from the rafters in my basement workshop that have been doing just that for over five years.

Before you disassemble the power supply, take a look at the specifications, which are always printed on a label pasted to the case of the supply. The label almost always tells you what color wire carries what voltage, and how much current it can handle. Even an old 100 watt XT supply can do good service in powering small rigs, or even HTs. Consider this use. If you decide to use the power supply in this way, first open the case and vacuum out the dust bunnies. MAKE SURE IT IS NOT PLUGGED IN WHEN YOU DO THIS (a self-evident, but necessary reminder). After the cover is replaced, you can test the supply, but you will need a load. Even the fan will not work if the supply has no load. A 12-volt automotive stoplight bulb will do fine. Be sure to connect it to the 12-volt leads! Six-volt bulbs will do a nice job of testing the 5-volt lines.

Next, deal with the floppy drives. If one is a 3½-inch model, try to determine if it has a 1.44 MB capacity. If so, save it - it can be used in a Pentium. Otherwise, treat it and any 5¼-inch drive as follows: Remove every machine screw, nut and any other fasteners and put them in your junk box. Throw away all plastic parts. Put sheet metal parts with the computer case for steel recycling. Put aluminum parts (including the main casting - almost always aluminum) in the recycling bin with your aluminum cans. Not sure if something is aluminum? Check it with a magnet. If it does not stick, it is probably aluminum.

Finally, the hard drive. If it was connected with two cables, it is a useless device, no matter what the capacity. Remove every screw for your junk box. Be prepared for a bunch of hex headed or Torxx headed screws. Put the platters in the aluminum bin. No matter what their color, they are made of aluminum (the tan, orange or black surface is just a very thin plating of magnetic oxide). That thick, spacer washer between the platters is aluminum, too. The housing is cast aluminum as well - it will make quite a few soda cans in its next life.

If the hard drive was connected with a single, 40-conductor cable, it might well be an IDE drive. If so, you could install it as a second drive in your new 300 MHz Pentium. On the other hand, you will need to know the jumper schemes to make your current drive a master and the little guy a slave. And you will need a double-ended IDE cable if your current machine doesn't already have one installed. Furthermore, after all that, it may only have a capacity of 100 MB or so, in which case you will be adding only a few percent to the storage capacity of your current system. It may well not be worth the effort. Give it away, or turn it into soda cans.

All done! What have you gained? Lots of screws and wire for your junk box, and goodies to be recycled. But I hope you have also taken the time to study each of the devices as you progressed through disassembly. If so, you have probably learned quite a bit about how each works. Think of all the engineering that went into each and every part you have handled. Especially amazing are the hard drives. They are probably the most complicated electromechanical devices ever produced on this planet. While their mechanical assembly is merely akin to a high precision phonograph record machine, the electronic control of reading and writing the magnetically recorded bits on those plated platters is very, very complex.

Hope you had fun, and learned a lot. Happy computing!

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An Amateur Radio Tower

Why do people get upset when one puts up a radio tower? A few things in its favor:

IT DOESN'T:

Squeal its tires
Screech its brakes
Blow its horn
Roar its motor
Slam its doors at ungodly hours
Shine its headlights in your bedroom window
Nor does it backfire.

IT DOESN'T:

Drop leaves that you have to clean up
Grow branches over your house
Drop fruit or nuts which block your downpipes
Block your view like a tree or building
Grow roots that damage your walk or driveway
Nor do its roots plug your drains.

IT DOESN'T:

Bite you
Bark or meow
Leave deposits on your property
Dig up your garden
Scratch on your door
Widdle on your trees
Nor does it dig up and scatter your garbage.

IT DOESN'T:

Have boisterous parties
Or play loud music
Or have swimming parties through the night
It doesn't ring your phone (accidentally?)
Nor does it ride bikes across your lawn.

It's just quiet and has nothing to say..

Marvin Wilson, VE7BJ, in the Ontario Amateur

PRODUCT REVIEW

MFJ-288 K/I HT Headset

The MFJ-288 "speaker mike" certainly has to be one of the best ideas to come from MFJ. It's not really a "speaker mic". Rather, it is a headset with a mike which can be moved to fit your face. It has one headphone with a cushion pad. It reminded me of Lily Tomlin when she played the ditzy part of "Ernestine" on the old TV show, "Laugh-In". I first noticed these configurations while on the set of "Chain Reaction"; the entire crew uses them. Practical? Absolutely. Perfect? No. Industrial strength? No. But considering what the film companies pay for the types they use, it is not fair to compare them.

Even though it works well, the element in the earphone appears to very fussy about the driving HT's output impedance. For example, I tried it with my IC-T22A, and found that it didn't take much for extraneous sounds to be audible. The headphone audio was not high enough to be used with the IC-T22A. Trying it on an IC-2AT was a very different story. Headphone audio was right up there - lots of very crisp sound.

Another possible problem may be low output from the mike's element. It could stand a but of pumping up.

The mike is keyed with an in-line switch you can clip to your shirt or put in your pocket.

Having said that, and keeping in mind that this is NOT an industrial-quality device (it is a little flimsy, so one would not want to subject it to daily duty), the device does work pretty well.

The advantages provided by this device are obvious. Public service work would be a great "fit" because of its hands-free operation, and because one ear is not covered at all.

Considering the low price (\$24.95), it is still a great value. It's offered several ways, i.e., for Icom, Kenwood, etc. It is worth the price. Available from your dealer, or from MFJ Enterprises, P.O. Box 494, Mississippi State, MS. The toll-free order number is (800) 647-1800.

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

OFFICIAL RESULTS

1998 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY

Sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club
P.O. Box 1072 • Milwaukee WI 53201

WISCONSIN STATIONS

Single Operator - Fixed

CALL	COUNTY	C	S	P	MULT	CW Q's	SSB Q's	BONUS PTS	FINAL SCORE	CLUB AFFILIATION
WE9V **	Kenosha	52	48	7	107	205	601	500	108677	Kettle Moraine ARC
W9XT *	Washington	52	49	8	109	156	499		88399	Kettle Moraine ARC
KB9S *	Pepin	54	43	4	101	229	374		84032	
N9SO *	Milwaukee	54	45	6	105	169	404		77910	
N9AW *	Milwaukee	49	40	4	93	221	348		73470	W/K ARC
N9UA *	Winnebago	51	33	3	87	225	301		65337	Fond du Lac ARC
WT9Q *	Dane	51	34	3	88	215	210		56320	Four Lakes ARC
WA9TZE *	Milwaukee	43	48	3	94	278	14		53580	W/K ARC
K9CAN *	Ozaukee	41	43	3	87	209	170		51156	Ozaukee Radio Club
AA9OC *	Dane	44	36	2	82	238	135		50102	Four Lakes ARC
WA1UJU	Waukesha	47	35	3	85	160	238		47430	Kettle Moraine ARC
KF9HI	Milwaukee	47	33	2	82	130	259		42558	W/K ARC
K9IMM	Dane	52	35	3	90	53	344		40500	Four Lakes ARC
W9WAQ	Dodge	44	41	3	88	149	147		39160	Watertown ARC
K9OSH	Waukesha	42	39	3	84	120	206		37464	Kettle Moraine ARC
W9CBE	Dane	43	31	2	76	225	36		36936	Four Lakes ARC
ND9C	Waukesha	46	35	4	85	109	206		36040	
N9EAJ	Jefferson	51	31	3	85	45	333		35955	Watertown ARC
NK9G	Milwaukee	41	32	2	75	120	228		35100	W/K ARC
K9OSC	Waukesha	41	28	1	70	160	123		31010	
KB9AMG	Waukesha	36	29	2	67	218	3		29413	Kettle Moraine ARC
N9TCF	Sheboygan	48	34	3	85	0	338		28730	Sheboygan County ARC
K9ZZ	Sauk	47	29	1	77	93	157	500	26911	Yellow Thunder ARC
N9EZF	Fond du Lac	52	24	2	78	0	341		26598	Fond du Lac ARC
W9WUU	Dane	34	26	2	62	209	0		25916	Four Lakes ARC
K9UW	Portage	47	25	2	74	46	240		24568	Central Wisconsin RA
WW1M	Milwaukee	46	24	3	73	51	228		24090	Kettle Moraine ARC
K9IA	Fond du Lac	42	20	2	64	159	50		23552	Fond du Lac ARC
N9WAR	Fond du Lac	34	33	3	70	69	195		23310	Fond du Lac ARC
WD9FLI	Dane	41	35	3	79	0	262		20698	Four Lakes ARC
KE9ET	Dane	46	27	3	76	0	268		20368	Four Lakes ARC
WK9M	Waukesha	48	30	3	81	0	251		20331	Kettle Moraine ARC
KE9XN	Dane	47	18	2	67	0	303		20301	Four Lakes ARC
WB9MSM	Dodge	40	33	4	77	0	245		18865	Watertown ARC
W9LUQ	Fond du Lac	35	26	2	63	50	167		16821	Op: N9WQ FARC
K9WTF	Waukesha	40	31	2	73	0	221		16133	West Allis RAC
K9FA	Winnebago	43	21	1	65	0	225		14625	Fond du Lac ARC
K9KR	Racine	31	24	1	56	35	172		13552	West Allis RAC
N9XVZ	Dane	26	24	1	51	125	0		12750	Four Lakes ARC
WF9X	Washington	41	16	1	58	1	206		12064	Kettle Moraine ARC
NG9V	Dane	45	8	1	54	50	123		12042	Four Lakes ARC
AG9G	Price	35	19	1	55	74	66		11770	Flambeau ARC
N9AOT	Waupaca	42	14	1	57	0	180		10260	Fox Cities ARC
K9GDF	Milwaukee	31	15	1	47	66	83		10105	
AA9TQ	St. Croix	38	24	1	63	0	158		9954	St. Croix Valley RA
KF9AQ	Dane	37	21	3	61	0	158		9638	Four Lakes ARC
AE9K	Racine	31	18	1	50	38	109		9250	W/K ARC
W9GIL	Milwaukee	25	19	2	46	98	2		9108	
KA9WAR	Marinette	24	24	3	51	0	175		8925	Marinette/Menominee RC
AF9J	Manitowoc	31	14	1	46	67	59		8878	
WA9KCU	Dodge	32	19	1	52	0	161		8372	Watertown ARC
NX9H	Milwaukee	31	27	4	62	0	133		8246	W/K ARC

W0AIH	Eau Claire	44	9	0	53	5	145	8215	Eau Claire Radio Club
KF9AF	Dane	18	33	3	54	0	150	8100	Four Lakes ARC
W9UVZ	Outagamie	29	19	2	50	0	158	7900	Fox Cities ARC
KA9HFA	Door	37	12	1	50	0	155	7750	Door County ARC
W9YCV	Milwaukee	38	8	1	47	39	86	7708	West Allis RAC
WA9YSD	Milwaukee	18	19	2	39	95	0	7410	Greater Milwaukee DX Assn
W9HR	Kenosha	25	16	1	42	85	0	7140	
N9EMD	Winnebago	42	9	0	51	0	127	500 6977	
KF0CT	Milwaukee	35	15	1	51	0	132	6732	W/K ARC
N9WNU	Outagamie	38	11	1	50	0	134	6700	Fox Cities ARC
W9FBC	Winnebago	31	5	1	37	62	57	6697	Fox Cities ARC
AJ9U	Milwaukee	27	18	1	46	24	97	6670	W/K ARC
N0EDV	Vernon	36	13	1	50	0	132	6600	
N9KIG	Waukesha	38	8	1	47	0	128	6016	W/K ARC
KA9QLP	Ozaukee	32	17	2	51	0	117	5967	Ozaukee Radio Club
WB9YSD	Dane	37	13	0	50	2	114	5900	
WB9NRK	Brown	28	20	0	48	0	122	5856	Green Bay Mike & Key
WD9ING	Dodge	35	6	1	42	0	136	5712	West Allis RAC
N9UBZ	Dane	35	11	1	47	0	96	4512	Four Lakes ARC
W9LXY	Racine	39	6	1	46	0	96	4416	Racine Megacycle Club
KF9ZB	Iowa	41	4	0	45	0	85	3825	Four Lakes ARC
K9EMG	Dane	20	21	2	43	0	88	3784	Four Lakes ARC
WA9WYI	Washington	28	9	1	38	16	66	3724	Washington County ARC
KB9W	Polk	22	10	0	32	57	0	3648	
N9TRK	Sheboygan	24	8	0	32	36	39	3552	Sheboygan County ARC
KG9FL	Dane	30	9	1	40	1	83	3400	Four Lakes ARC
N9UW	Dane	33	8	1	42	0	79	3318	Op: W9IXG FLARC
WA9YVE	Jefferson	25	5	1	31	0	97	3007	Watertown ARC
KA9ZPX	Columbia	32	5	0	37	0	71	2627	Four Lakes ARC
N9WOO	Winnebago	20	13	1	34	6	62	2516	Fox Cities ARC
N9FZL	Outagamie	26	4	0	30	0	78	2340	Fox Cities ARC
K9FHI	Dodge	33	4	0	37	0	62	2294	Rock River Radio Club
WB9PMF	Chippewa	34	4	0	38	0	59	2242	Red Cedar Repeater Assn
W9GSV	Milwaukee	20	5	1	26	40	0	2080	West Allis RAC
AA9TV	Fond du Lac	18	4	1	23	31	28	2070	Fond du Lac ARC
KA9OMC	Dunn	31	5	0	36	1	54	2016	Red Cedar Repeater Assn
W9NUE	Waukesha	18	12	1	31	0	63	1953	West Allis RAC
AA9UZ	Waukesha	21	11	0	32	0	61	1952	W/K ARC
KC9AA	Waupaca	29	5	0	34	0	53	1802	Fox Cities ARC
KG9CS	Waukesha	19	6	1	26	0	69	1794	W/K ARC
N9DHM	Brown	22	10	0	32	0	52	1664	Green Bay Mike & Key
KA9JCP	Milwaukee	11	6	0	17	0	46	782	West Allis RAC
AA9HS	Dane	20	4	0	24	0	32	768	Four Lakes ARC
W9NAW	Waukesha	8	1	0	9	0	55	495	West Allis RAC
WB9NOV	Dane	12	1	0	13	19	0	494	Four Lakes ARC
N9XRO	Waukesha	10	1	0	11	0	39	429	W/K ARC
WB9PUB	Walworth	9	0	0	9	0	25	225	West Allis RAC
N9PHR	Dane	7	1	0	8	0	26	208	Four Lakes ARC
N9DMS	Dane	7	5	0	12	0	17	204	Four Lakes ARC
N9NDP	Kenosha	6	1	0	7	0	23	161	
KB9HJN	Waukesha	7	1	0	8	0	19	152	West Allis RAC
W9ISC	Milwaukee	5	3	0	8	8	0	128	
W9ODV	Sheboygan	7	1	0	8	6	4	128	Sheboygan County ARC
KB9LRE	Outagamie	8	1	0	9	0	11	99	Fox Cities ARC
NK9U	Dane	2	1	0	3	0	8	24	Four Lakes ARC

** PLAQUE
 * CERTIFICATE

Single Operator - Mobile

CALL	COUNTY	C	S	P	MULT	CW Q's	SSB Q's	BONUS PTS	FINAL SCORE	CLUB AFFILIATION
W9MSE *	9	28	31	2	61	329	0	4500	44638	Fond du Lac ARC
K9DAF *	14	25	29	2	56	254	0	6500	34948	Fox Cities ARC
WI9WI *	3	35	30	1	66	146	93	1500	26910	Four Lakes ARC
N9HR *	21	35	7	0	42	0	268	9000	20256	Watertown ARC
WD9FLJ *	6	29	24	2	55	0	248	2500	16140	Fox Cities ARC
W9AVM *	9	30	7	0	37	0	130	4000	8810	Red Cedar Repeater Assn
WA9GON *	8	28	13	1	42	17	89	3500	8666	Fox Cities ARC
WA9PWP *	3	12	26	0	38	94	0	1000	8144	Four Lakes ARC
N9PBM *	5	22	9	1	32	0	123	2000	5936	Fox Cities ARC
W9ZC *	5	21	8	1	30	0	113	2000	5390	Fox Cities ARC
KF0UK	6	18	16	0	34	0	76	2500	5084	
N9WR	4	22	5	1	28	0	114	1500	4692	Four Lakes ARC
W0LFE	2	32	5	0	37	0	97	500	4089	Green Bay Mike & Key
KB9LIE	5	14	5	0	19	0	63	2000	3197	Four Lakes ARC
KC9CI	4	18	6	0	24	0	54	1500	2796	Kettle Moraine ARC
NS9L	4	9	1	0	10	0	49	1500	1990	Four Lakes ARC
KB9NOA	6	10	2	0	12	0	61	1000	1732	W/K ARC
N9LKY	4	13	1	0	14	0	75	500	1550	Yellow Thunder ARC

N8XQJ	4	7	1	0	8	0	35	1000	1280	Kettle Moraine ARC
W9FZ	2	3	2	0	5	8	31	1000	1235	Badger Contesters
K9LGU	4	16	5	0	21	14	21		1029	C.A.R.E.S.
N9LOK	3	15	4	0	19	0	40		760	
KA5QGR	2	7	1	0	8	0	21	500	668	Kettle Moraine ARC
KF9ZU	6	6	1	0	7	0	12	84		
K9PAK	1	5	1	0	6	0	13	78		Kettle Moraine ARC
KB9PVG	3	3	4	0	7	0	7	49		Four Lakes ARC
N9LYV	2	2	1	0	3	0	7	21		West Allis RAC

* CERTIFICATE

Single Operator - Technician

KB9AMM *	13	22	1	0	23	0	205	6000	10715	Green Bay Mike & Key
N9SGG *	10	19	1	0	20	0	145	5000	7900	Fox Cities ARC
N9QBU *	Dodge	25	1	0	26	0	97		2522	Fond du Lac ARC
N9RWM *	2	11	1	0	12	0	67	500	1304	Fox Cities ARC
KB9LYT *	Sheboygan	10	3	0	13	2	53		741	Sheboygan County ARC
KB9RAW *	Outagamie	10	1	0	11	0	65		715	Fox Cities ARC
N9EFX *	Dodge	13	1	0	14	0	51		714	Watertown ARC
KB9JKT *	3	6	1	0	7	0	20	500	640	Green Bay Mike & Key
W9NWY *	Winnebago	11	1	0	12	0	30		360	Fox Cities ARC
N9WCA *	4	3	1	0	4	0	9		36	Green Bay Mike & Key
N9TBR	2	3	1	0	4	0	7		28	Green Bay Mike & Key
KB9CPZ	2	2	1	0	3	0	6		18	West Allis RAC
N9QZF	Brown	1	1	0	2	0	2		4	Green Bay Mike & Key

* CERTIFICATE

Multi Operator - Fixed

NI9Z *	Fond du Lac	49	45	3	97	171	212		53738	Fond du Lac ARC Ops: NI9Z, KD9ZP
W9YQ	Oconto	44	33	4	81	213	120	500	44726	Marinette/Menominee RC Ops: W9YQ, N9PQU
KF9GP	Brown	50	30	3	83	0	370	500	31210	Green Bay Mike & Key Ops: KF9GP, KA9BLI
KO9Q	Sheboygan	28	30	1	59	104	51		15281	Sheboygan County ARC Ops: KO9Q, N9IOC
N9TNW	Outagamie	42	24	1	67	0	218		14606	Fox Cities ARC Ops: N9TNW, N9OEO, KB9PKW

* CERTIFICATE

Multi Operator - Mobile

AA9PB *	2	45	38	3	86	197	115	1000	44774	Marinette/Menominee RC Ops: AA9PB, KB9NGF, KG9GH
NE9U	11	25	24	2	51	207	17	5500	27481	Central Wisconsin RA Ops: NE9U, N9BCA
K9LU	9	22	25	2	49	92	82	4500	17534	SMC Ops: K9LU, KB9SBC
W9IEI	8	33	14	0	47	0	276	3500	16472	Fox Cities ARC Ops: W9IEI, KB9PCW, KB9OAL, KB9PWW
KA9KLZ	7	27	8	0	35	12	120	3000	8040	Hidden Valley ARC Ops: KA9KLZ, WK9O
N9BC	5	22	14	1	37	0	103	2000	5811	Green Bay Mike & Key Ops: N9BC, N9QLO

* CERTIFICATE

Multi Transmitter/Multi Operator - Fixed

K9OT *	Lafayette	60	39	4	103	273	343		91567	HVARC Ops: K9OT, KB9NIN, NN9K, KF0BG
KA9RPM	LaCrosse	49	45	8	102	170	378		73236	SMC Ops: KB9RPM, KA9FOX
N9FH	Milwaukee	49	45	4	98	182	340	500	69492	Lefrog Ops: N9FH, N9JER
ND9Z	Outagamie	50	44	2	96	51	516	500	59828	Green Bay Mike & Key Ops: ND9Z, K9KL, KA9BXG
N9CK	Dane	48	34	2	84	281	139		58884	Four Lakes ARC Ops: N9CK, N9PQN
K0SN	Marinette	43	38	2	83	260	156		56108	Marinette/Menominee RC Ops: K0SN, K8IR, KG8CX

W9HHX	Milwaukee	51	43	5	99	0	525	51975	MSOE ARC Ops: KB9DFE, N9PBY, KB9IMM,N9WTQ, KB0VQW
W9FK	Milwaukee	56	31	1	88	138	309	51480	West Allis RAC Ops: KA9WXN, WB9UAI, K9BTQ, KB9RHY, KB9PIV
W9DBF	Winnebago	40	32	3	75	76	310	34650	Fox Cities ARC Ops: W9DBF, N9XOH, K9JEF, N9ZHV
KS9WI	Brown	43	34	3	80	0	410	32800	Green Bay Mike & Key Ops: KS9WI, N9ZDA, N9PAV, KA9YAW
K9IK	Winnebago	45	32	4	81	0	274	500 22694	Fox Cities ARC Ops: K9IK, N9NUP, W9OJT, WB9OJE
N9KNY	Fond du Lac	39	21	1	61	0	171	10431	Fond du Lac ARC Ops: N9KNY, KG9KL, KB9POO

* CERTIFICATE

Multi Transmitter/Multi Operator - Mobile

N9KS *	24	42	38	2	82	374	357	11500	102110	Kettle Moraine ARC Ops: N9KS, N9EZ
WI9M	11	25	27	1	53	107	131	5000	23285	Ozaukee Radio Club Ops: WI9M, AA9OS, WA9JOB, KB9LNL, N9LOO

* CERTIFICATE

Multi Transmitter/Multi Operator - Novice

KA9QFJ *	5	18	1	0	19	0	137	2500	5103	Yellow Thunder ARC Ops: KA9QFJ, N9UDO, N9UDX
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* CERTIFICATE

Club Aggregate Scores • Club Competition

CLUB NAME	SCORE	ENTRIES	WINNER
KETTLE MORaine RADIO AMATEURS ***	474800	13	WE9V
FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	440701	30	N9CK
FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	283642	11	N9UA
W/K ARC OF GREATER MILWAUKEE	247529	13	N9AW
FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	208095	21	K9DAF
MARINETTE/MENOMINEE RADIO CLUB	167181	5	K0SN
GREEN BAY MIKE & KEY CLUB	152681	12	ND9Z
WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	126329	7	W9WAQ
WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB	100311	13	W9FK
HIDDEN VALLEYS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	99607	2	K9OT
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	90770	2	KA9RPM
OZAUKEE RADIO CLUB	80408	3	K9CAN
LEFROG	69492	1	N9FH
CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS	52049	2	NE9U
MSOE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	51975	1	W9HHX
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	48432	5	N9TCF
YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	33564	3	K9ZZ
RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION	13068	3	W9AVM
FLAMBEAU AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	11770	1	AG9G
ST. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS	9954	1	AA9TQ
EAU CLAIRE RADIO CLUB	8215	1	W0AIH
GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION	7410	1	WA9YSD
DOOR COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	7750	1	KA9HFA
RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB	4416	1	W9LXY
WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3724	1	WA9WYI
ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB	2294	1	K9FHI
BADGER CONTESTERS	1235	1	W9FZ
C.A.R.E.S.	1029	1	K9LGU

*** PLAQUE

NON-WISCONSIN STATIONS

CALL	STATE	CW Q's	SSB Q's	WISCONSIN COUNTIES	FINAL SCORE	CLUB AFFILIATION
K4NR *	AL	45	11	21	2121	
K6NA *	CA	84	43	38	8018	
N6ED	CA	38	99	39	6825	Young Gunners DX Assn
N6NT	CA	43	30	29	3364	
NØQT *	CO	46	0	20	1840	
K5ME *	FL	29	3	19	1159	
K9IAC/4	FL	0	42	23	966	WARAC
K4BAI *	GA	62	39	31	5053	
K4PK	GA	19	18	18	1008	
NØØZ *	IA	117	0	42	9828	
WAØHIK	IA	0	33	20	660	
KK7A *	ID	5	5	9	135	
K9OM **	IL	108	189	57	23085	
K9WA	IL	122	59	51	15453	
KJ9O	IL	100	0	38	7600	
WA9ENA	IL	0	103	40	4120	
KB9IUA	IL	44	0	25	2200	Green River Valley ARS
W9EM	IL	0	67	25	1675	Lake County RACES/ARES
AA9UC	IL	1	60	27	1674	
W9YS	IL	1	51	30	1590	Palisades ARC
WT9U *	IN	92	149	50	16650	SMC
KA8OKH *	KY	86	23	32	6240	
KE4LIA	KY	18	0	12	432	
WM9M *	LA	0	72	24	1728	
WA1LXP *	MA	0	74	30	2220	
KA1VY	MA	0	46	25	1150	
W3ABC *	MD	50	1	26	2626	
WD3P	MD	22	0	15	660	
KD1OG *	ME	0	60	26	1560	
K8NB *	MI	61	126	51	12648	Marinette/Menominee RC
WA9YEF	MI	71	55	32	6304	
W8YY	MI	0	128	45	5760	Ops: K18DL, AA9VI, KG9IF, KB9RIR, N8TYP
W8QM	MI	61	37	31	4929	SVARA
AA8SN	MI	1	51	22	1166	
N8TDH	MI	8	0	7	112	
NØJVR *	MN	0	75	32	2400	
KØJPL *	MO	35	0	19	1330	MVDXCC
WB2JAF/5 *	MS	59	0	24	2832	
W4WS *	NC	19	61	34	3366	Op: N4VAK
K1BV *	NH	49	6	20	2080	
W2UDT *	NJ	61	40	27	4374	
AE2N	NJ	25	0	15	750	
W2LRO	NJ	11	12	14	476	
N2JJ *	NY	80	0	37	5920	
AF8A *	OH	115	65	50	14750	
WA3HAE *	PA	95	112	50	15100	Weekend Warriors
N3RJ	PA	72	65	39	8151	
W3HDH	PA	67	17	37	5587	
K3WWP/QRP	PA	81	0	30	4860	
WB3AAL	PA	25	16	19	1254	
W3NTD	PA	0	25	12	300	
N3CZB	PA	5	0	5	50	
WW4RR *	TN	105	86	42	12432	Op: W9WI TN Contest Group
K5NZ *	TX	92	95	49	13671	Team Cramp
W3DYA	TX	73	0	30	4380	
W5NR	TX	15	15	16	720	
K4RDU *	VA	106	6	38	8284	
K4UK	VA	96	6	37	7326	
W4AU	VA	61	1	27	3321	Loudoun Amateur Radio Club
W4SNH	VA	50	0	27	2700	
AA1SU *	VT	18	0	14	504	
KC7SSN *	WA	26	0	13	676	
KG7OM/M	WA	13	0	9	234	
W7DRA	WA	2	0	2	8	
KJ8J *	WV	64	42	32	5440	
K9YLI *	WY	0	19	13	247	
VE3WZ *	ONT	70	35	32	5600	
VA3RJ	ONT	62	18	33	4686	
VE2EM/M	ONT	40	20	33	3300	
VE3SWG	ONT	0	91	31	2821	
VE3FRS	ONT	43	10	25	2400	
VE3SRE	ONT	10	34	20	1080	
VE5BF *	SK	0	56	24	1344	
VE5BCS	SK	0	32	21	672	
LU6EF *	Argentina	16	1	12	396	

** PLAQUE * CERTIFICATE

GENERAL COMMENTS

1998: A RECORD YEAR in more ways than one. We had a RECORD 248 entries. Best ever prior to that was 217 in 1996. This year, the 248 entries consisted of 173 from Wisconsin, compared with 147 last year. We also received 75 from out-of-state, compared with 69 last year. Canada was represented by the Provinces of Ontario and Saskatchewan, and Argentina was represented by LU6EF. And that is only from the stations who sent in logs. It appears many other stations stopped by to either give out contacts, or to try and work one of the many counties that were on the air during WQP 98, but did not enter the competition.

We had FIVE category records broken and one tied:

1. In the Single Operator Fixed category, the old record of 89,600 points set in 1994 by KA9FOX operating W0AIH, was smashed by our 1998 winner, WE9V, who scored 108,677 points.

2. In the Single Operator Mobile category, W9MSE trounced the previous record of 26,380 points set in 1993 by W9OP. W9MSE came in with 44,638 points, all on CW while mobile in 9 different counties. In fact, each of the top 3 entries in the Single Operator Mobile category all broke the previous record, with the top 2 strictly CW-only entries.

3. In the Multi Operator Mobile category, the previous record was set by NZ9Z in 1991 with 24,118 points. The 1998 WQP winner in this category, AA9PB, broke that with 44,774 points.

4. In the Multi Operator Multi Transmitter Mobile category, held by N9EZ since 1997, the record was for 76,966 points. This year they scored 102,110 points using N9KS (N9EZ and N9KS are the same team - they alternate use of callsigns each year).

5. In the Single Operator Technician category, KB9AMM scored 10,715 points. The old record was held by N9NUN, who in 1993 scored 8,400 points.

6. The remaining record that was tied, was the Out-of-State Highest Score, set by AC9C in 1991, operating from Illinois, with a score of 23,085 points. This year, our out-of-state winner K9OM, also scored the same 23,085 points and he also lives in Illinois.

Another RECORD. 1998 WQP had 40 mobile station entries. In 1997 we only had 24. Those 40 mobiles traveled thru 51 Wisconsin counties. These same 40 mobiles were in 20 counties that did not have another station operating in it, based on the total entries we got. Of course there could have been stations on from those 20 counties that did not send in logs, but I bet most of those 20 would not be in your logs except for contacts from those 40 mobiles. To me that's what makes WQP what it is each year. Great efforts by the many mo-



biles, one of which was in 25 counties alone. I think that type of effort by all the mobiles is worth a big THANK YOU!!!!!! Are the above results directly related to the change we made in the number of QSO's needed to qualify for the 500 bonus points in each county visited? Time will tell. I personally think the change helped a lot by increasing the total number of counties visited by the mobiles, and perhaps even in the total quantity of mobiles that participated in 1998 WQP.

One last RECORD - late entries. 1998 WQP resulted in the worst number of late entries I have ever seen since I started tabulating the results for WARAC. I am of the opinion that this is going to need attention in the WQP Committee's discussions before 1999 WQP. It is hard on me as I must constantly make revisions to the database. More important, it affects the results that you see published. It also delays the results being sent to Smoke Signals. We set a deadline for a reason. We need to have that deadline observed. Perhaps a solution is to hold to the postmark deadline and drop all late entries OR perhaps we should start deleting points from entries when they are late. Comments?

Another area that turned out well was our web site, which had a lot of visits. Judging by the logs that were submitted, a lot of entries downloaded the entry/rules forms and/or the WA1UJU WQP computer program that is available there. It looks like perhaps 30% of the entries were submitted based on those two items. The site is visited via

www.wa9pov@execpc.com/WARAC

(you need to capitalize WARAC or it will not get

you there). WQP results are also posted there.

Now for the festivities. Our plaque for the best **SINGLE OPERATOR - FIXED** station goes to Chad Kurszewski, WE9V. He operated at W9JA (which is the former KS9K superstation), making 205 CW contacts and 601 phone contacts, contacting 52 counties, 48 states and 7 provinces, for a score of 108,677. This is WQP's first single operator score over 100K. Congratulations Chad.

The plaque for the best **OUT-OF-STATE** entry goes to K9OM, Dick Van Zandt, from Illinois. He bettered his last years' winning record with 108 CW contacts and 189 phone contacts, contacting 57 Wisconsin counties, for a total of 23,085 points. Congratulation Dick. Another possible direct result of the many mobiles on the road during WQP?

The battle of the Wisconsin clubs. This year we had 28 clubs enter, versus 23 last year. Score totals were up this year, resulting in several clubs moving up several notches in the listing, as compared to their position last year. I think that is wonderful in that it shows the efforts that a number of clubs put forth trying to rally their membership to participate, which apparently worked. That is the spirit of WQP. Our plaque in the **CLUB COMPETITION** goes to Kettle Moraine Radio Amateur Club. Their 13 entries produced a very nice total of 474,800 points, which is getting close to our standing record of 540,970 points, scored by Badger Amateur Radio Society in 1984. Four Lakes ARC, last years top club, increased their score by over 100,000 points compared to last year, but only managed to come in second place. Their total of 440,701 points was accomplished with 30 entries, compared to 33 last year. I just wonder what 3 more entries would have produced?

There is not too much more to say except - **WITHOUT ALL YOU GUYS AND GALS, THERE WOULD BE NO WISCONSIN QSO PARTY.** Numerous stations stopping by to give out points, chasing counties, just seeing what is going on with all the activity, 40 mobile stations, covering as many as 52 counties, resulting in a lot of participation. I, for one, am thankful for all this participation. Without this participation, a lot of stations would not be getting their QSO totals. Perhaps next year we should acknowledge this participation as we WI stations talk with "them" during '99 WQP. Its all these efforts that keep WQP rolling along like it is - we think the best State QSO Party in the US of A. See you on the second Sunday of March, 1999, good Lord willing.

Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR

for the Wisconsin QSO Party Committee

SOAPBOX

I like the limited time for QSO party. Really concentrates the participants. - K1BV

Working WQP was very enjoying as well as productive - I picked up several new counties and many new contacts. This was my first concerted effort. - KD1OG

Sorry couldn't operate too long. Too cold in basement. I'll be back next year. - AE2N

No 15 M here. Great showing! Lots of mobiles and fixed stations. My best score so far in WQP. Keep the format! You have a winner. - W2UDT

Enjoyed the short format. Jeff, W9MSE, sent me a special invitation and gave me my next-to-last WI county. Also nice to QSO Bob K9-DAF/M as well as the other mobiles. It kept me interested. - W3DYA

Conditions weren't sensational for radio in Amerstview (his QTH) but on the other hand, everyone called me on the telephone during the contest. See you next year. - VE3FRS

Was out of town on business. Drove 3.5 hours

, be able to operate this one. Worth every minute of it. - WA3HAE/3

Great fun again! Conditions from PA poor during first 2 hours but better later. Thanks to all those mobiles!! It was worth the gas money. See you in the PA party in October. - W3HDD

Here is my entry, small as it is. Had a good time. - W3NTD

Another great contest weekend. Thanks to the mobile stations who gave me the opportunity to work some new counties. 73's till next time. - N3RJ

Lots of activity this year. Fantastic job done by all mobiles! Thanks for all the fun and will be looking forward to next years WI QSO Party. - VE3RJ

QRP at 2.5 watts with dipole, CW on 40 meters only. Thanks for QSO party - great time. - KE4LIA

Had not planned to work the event, but with so many WI stations calling CQ, I had to get in there and work as many of them as possible.

Heard WT9Q on 15 but could not work - still need WI on 15 for 5BWAS. Started looking for 160 meters at the end - did not realize you were not using 160 (there is not reason it cannot be used - ed). - K4NR

Enjoyed the contest. Nice job. - K4PK

Hint: give your call at the end of every QSO when calling CQ. Otherwise people who did not hear your last ID will call anyway and you will work lots of DUPES. - WW4RR

Fourth time I've entered. Higher score each time. Conditions were good with strong signals. First time I've worked any stations on 20 meters in WQP. - K4UK

Great test. Sorry I could only work 4 hours. Great effort by your mobiles. C U next year. - W4WS

I worked 21 counties on 20 & 40 from Saskatchewan using 5 watts. Tnx I enjoyed. - VE5BCS

Thank you again for sponsoring an exciting QSO party. I could hear more stations than I

was able to work. I believe it was propagation and the fact that many of the WI stations had their beams pointing in a southerly direction. Thanks to all those who heard my 100 watt station. - VE5BF

Good to see the CW contacts! Onward ye old brass pounders. - W5NR

I was very pleased to enter WQP. It was rather difficult for me to cut the US wall, but anyway, it was a very enjoyable Sunday evening. Trouble on 40 meters due to South and Central America stations but avoided them to hear Wisconsin. - LU6EF

Always fun - go Packers! - K6NA

Put off air because of my key clicks. Have to do some rig cleaning. - W7DRA

This was the first time I'd worked this contest. I enjoyed it very much. - KC7SSN

Missed most of the first hour due to computer problems, but I still made 21 more Qs and worked 4 more counties than last year. Participation must be up. - AF8A

It might not be much of a result, but it was fun, and that's what counts. Running an MFJ9040 at 5 watts to dipole at 15 feet. - N8TDH

My first time mobile. What a blast. Everyone liked the counties I was in. - W9AVM

Did not get started till late as was at the Jefferson swapfest and then part of St. Patrick's parade communications by our club. It was fun. - K9FHI

Contest was fun and chance to catch up on news with many WI amateurs. - K9GDF

This contest is more fun than Field Day. - N9HR

My thanks to West Allis RAC for sponsoring this great activity. It's wonderful to see so much participation. Keep up the good work. - K9IA

We promoted WQP quite heavily within our club. Haven't ever heard 2M FM busy. To work a pile-up on 146.52 was quite the experience. We had a lot of new people out this year and everyone was full of great comments at our last club meeting. - W9IEI mobile team

My first WQP. Fun! My puny signal has its problems breaking in, plus my receiver easily overloaded at the front end. I should be back again next year for another go at it. - KB9IUA

A big thanks to WARAC for this great contest.

It was the best ever. N9KS operated from 24 counties ONLY with the help of all the other stations around the county. We have higher goals set for next year using the N9EZ/M call. See all of you in 99 WQP.

- N9KS, N9EZ and Karole
(driver and map reader)

First time running mobile in WQP (an all CW entry too - ed). Was in Minnesota for a long weekend with the wife. Left MN at 7:30 am and drove 180 miles thru snow to get to Burnett County at noon. Put on 150 miles thru 9 counties ending up in Buffalo at 7 pm. Then another 150 miles back to MN. Long day but lots of fun. Just about doubled previous fixed high score over the past 7 years. - W9MSE

First WQP in 5 years. Great conditions on all bands from the new home in the swamp. Seemed strange to run WQP in 75 degree WX. - WM9M

Thank you WA1UJU for putting together an excellent computer program for us testers. Really makes the contest fun to work and less paperwork after. - WB9MSM

Sorry could not work more but had a family commitment I could not miss. - WB9NOV

A great contest. - K9OM

Lots of activity both in and out of WI. Must be fun across the U.S. 73 till 99. - K9OSH

This was a first experience for me trying to run more than one station at a time from my QTH. We hope to be back next year with a better antenna farm and less interference between stations. Thanks to WARAC for sponsoring another fun contest and to all the mobile stations who give out the rare multipliers. - K9OT team

Thank you for sponsoring this event. It seems to bring out a great group of hams nationwide, and has a great reputation. The highlight for myself was the contact with K1USN on the USS Salem, off the coast of Mass. They came back to my CQ and even sent me a QSL card. - AA9TQ

Here is a great idea for next year - make indian casino's parking lots a new multiplier for mobiles to operate from. We could have given out 4 or 5 "new ones" then. - NE9U & N9BCA

Thanks for putting on the QSO party. - N9UBZ

Thanks for a great contest. WI ops really know how to have a great time. Every contact was a pleasure. The WIQP logging software is a slick

package. I'm looking forward to next year.

- AA9UC

I've been a ham for over 40 years. This is the first contest I have ever really worked at. Sorry the sheets are a mess. I have new logging software for next year. - W9UVZ

Started in Ashland and lost the first 23 minutes with a bad antenna. Different antenna worked well. Moved 1/4 mile to Sawyer County and things picked up. After 2 hours made the 30 minute drive to Price County. I was also going to go to Rusk County but I was wiped out. This is a one man and one dog operation. I run the rig off an RV battery on the floor of the car and log by hand. Got back to Madison about 2330 Sunday night, very tired. A good time was had by all. Thanks for the Qs. - WI9WI

An S-8 noise level all during the contest didn't help my score any! I did manage to beat my 97 score. Enjoyed the party and hope to be back in 1999. - VE3WZ

Great time as usual! My best effort yet. Big thanks to the mobile stations who gave out all the counties. Congrats to Chad, WE9V (operating from W9JA). His score has to be a new record. - W9XT

Nice contest. Good WI participation. Wish I had more time but had to work it in around other home projects. Maybe WI mobile next year? - W9YS

Was happy to see the improvements in the multi county requirement. Really enjoyed the QSO party. - W9ZC

My first WISC QSO contest. Great fun. After 20 years in Wisconsin I discovered counties I never heard of. I'll be in next year but with computer. - W0AIH

QSOs on 75 as scarce as hen's teeth. 40 was much better than expected. Had a blast anyways. Used primitive homebrew software. Read BSSS after contest and found out about WA1UJU program. Next year it's Glen's program. - N0EDV

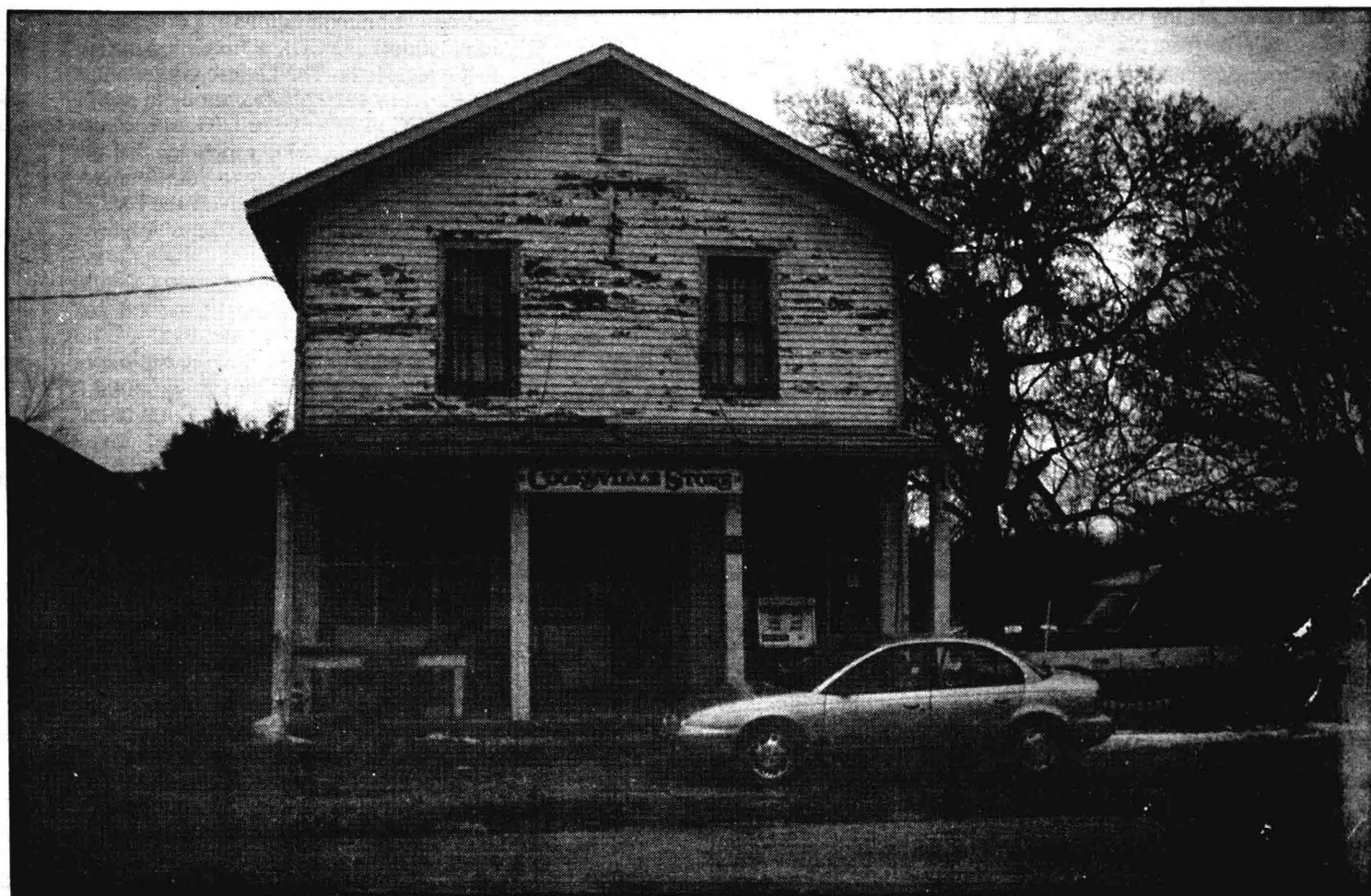
Great contest. Picked up 9 new WI counties never worked before. Thanks to all the operators who were out there. You're being there is what makes this contest one of the best state QSO parties. - N0JVR

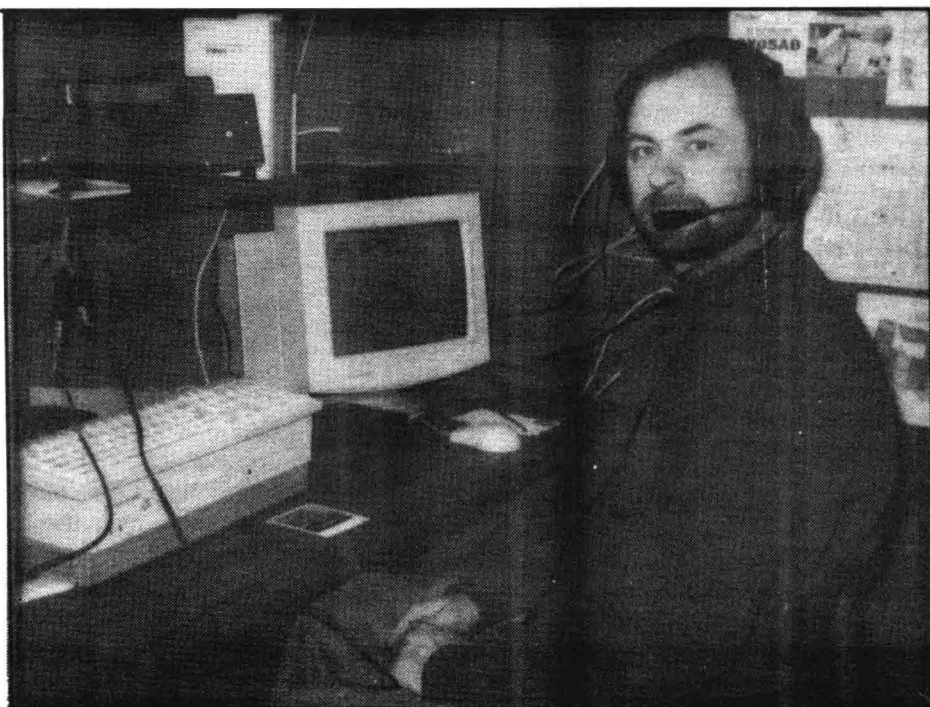
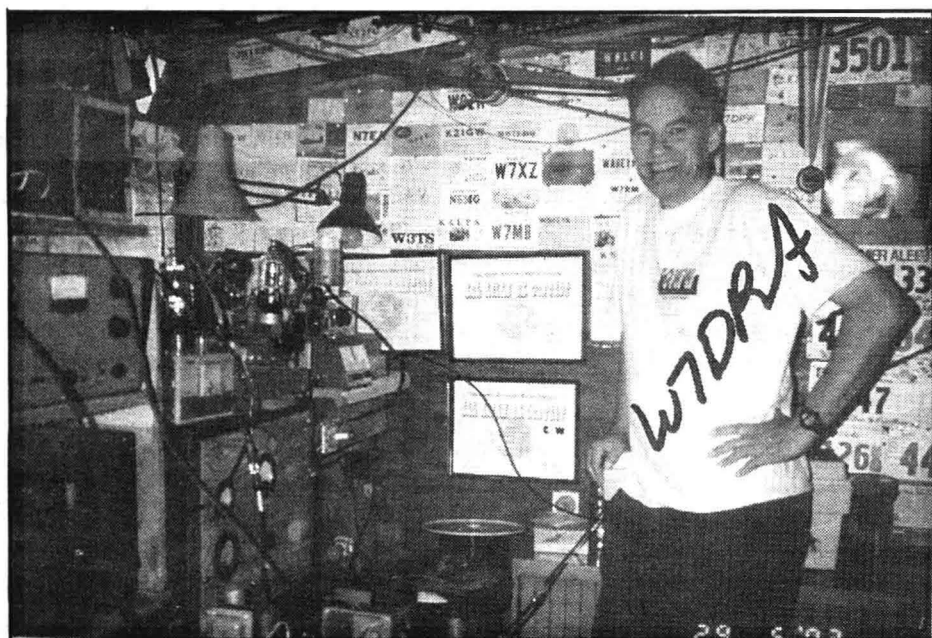
I set up portable in Oconto from 1800 to 2230 and then mobile in Brown from 0010 to end of WQP. - W0LFE

Lots of fun! Look forward to next one. - N0QT

PARTYING PARTICIPANTS

Paul Goemans, WA9PWP, operated mobile during a portion of the WQP. He is in his car here at the Cooksville Store. The store was built in 1846, two years before Wisconsin left its status as a territory and became the State of Wisconsin. This photo was provided by Paul. More participant photos are on the next page.





The WQP: Fun for everyone

We were hoping for a big batch of participant photos. Didn't happen, but we did get a few and present them to you here. **UPPER LEFT:** W7DRA was busily working the contest, and giving multipliers. Thanks! **UPPER RIGHT:** David Wahler, AA9UC, of Waterloo, Illinois did the same, and thanks to him as well. **AT LEFT:** The Milwaukee School of Engineering's hams put W9HHX on the WQP map. The crew was Ray Meyer, N9PBY (left), Steve Miller, KB9DFE, Bill Serre, KB9INM (front), Andrew Klosinski, KB0VQW (rear), and Bill Lundgren, N9WTQ. Thanks for sending your photos, folks. □

About the Sponsor

The West Allis Radio Amateur Club sponsors the Wisconsin QSO Party each March. The club also awards scholarships to aspiring young people going to a college or university. The scholarships are managed by the Foundation for Amateur Radio. □

Wow! What a Ride!

Continued from front page

on 75, 20 and 2 meters was great.

We set several goals before the contest. The first one, Ken, on phone had to beat Jack on CW. That has never happened, but we are getting closer. Jack had 374 QSOs on CW from the back of the van as we drove 360 miles in seven hours. Ken "almost" made it with 357 contacts, but salt spray on the 20-meter antenna mount knocked him off that band for the last hour and fifteen minutes. (I couldn't think of a better excuse.)

Our next goals were to be the highest scoring station in the contest, the highest in the Kettle Moraine Radio Amateurs Club, and operate from the most counties. Well, we got two out of the three. Rumor has it that a super station brought in a "hired gun" from Illinois just to shoot us down (just kidding). We did get the highest in the club and we made it to 24 counties. We may be maxed out on the last one, unless we can come up with a way to

eliminate those potty breaks.

We did make contacts with 42 Wisconsin counties, 38 states, and two Canadian provinces for a score of 102K. This was due to having a lot of Wisconsin mobiles on the road and all those home stations giving us all that action. **The participation level was the highest ever, due to the efforts of the West Allis Radio Club, and they should be praised for creating one of the best contests in Amateur Radio.**

We want to give our driver, Karole, a big "thank you" for missing all those pot holes and keeping us near the speed limits. (Good thing you didn't come thru Baraboo; in no way can you not hit one of our monster swimming pools in the asphalt - K9ZZ.) She drove another 40-50 miles after the contest to get us home safe.

For the 1999 contest, we will use Jack's call, N9EZ/M, and our goals will be just a little higher.

We can't wait for the 1999 contest. Good luck, and see you next March. □

70cm at risk

Continued from front page

The LMCC, a nonprofit association, includes several well-known organizations such as the American Automobile Association, the American Petroleum Institute, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials - International (APCO), a frequent Amateur Radio supporter. The League suggests that ARRL members who also belong to one of the LMCC member organizations consider writing to inform the organization that the LMCC is acting contrary to your interests and requesting them to disavow the LMCC petition insofar as it affects Amateur Radio.

Sumner says ARRL members should not complain to members of Congress nor write angry letters to the FCC. "The LMCC petition is a private-sector initiative, not a government proposal," Sumner said. "By law, the FCC has to put the petition on public notice and invite comment. That's all the FCC has done with it." **Sumner says that criticizing the FCC at this stage would be "inappropriate and counterproductive."**

Sumner reminds members that nothing is going to happen overnight with the LMCC petition, and there will be at least one more opportunity for public comment. "Before the FCC can take the next step to reallocate this spectrum, it must get the federal government to agree," he explained, because the government is the primary occupant. Then, the FCC would have to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and solicit public comments on its proposal.

The ARRL Letter, 5/14/98

Submarine event a success

Jim Flanders, W0OOG, says he considers the recent Submarine Memorial Radio Room Reactivation (SmR3) "a success beyond all expectations," despite problems from a solar storm and QRM. "Nine submarines were successful with their operations," he said. "Pictures are starting to come in to me, and I'm displaying them on the Amateur Radio part of my Web page:

<http://www.flash.net/~jflanders>

Flanders says he's written an article for the Naval Historical Ship Society. "All these subs are a member of that organization," he explained. He's also writing an article on the event for the Submarine Veterans Amateur Radio Association (SVARA) publication, Tubes Forward.

--Jim Flanders W0OOG, in The ARRL Letter, 5/14/98

Have you considered becoming an ARRL Volunteer Examiner? If you are 18 or older, and are presently a General, Advanced, or Extra class licensee, the ARRL/VEC would be glad to hear from you. Feel free to contact the ARRL/VEC at (800) 927-7583 and request our Prospective VE Packet. Very 73 to all my friends in Wisconsin!

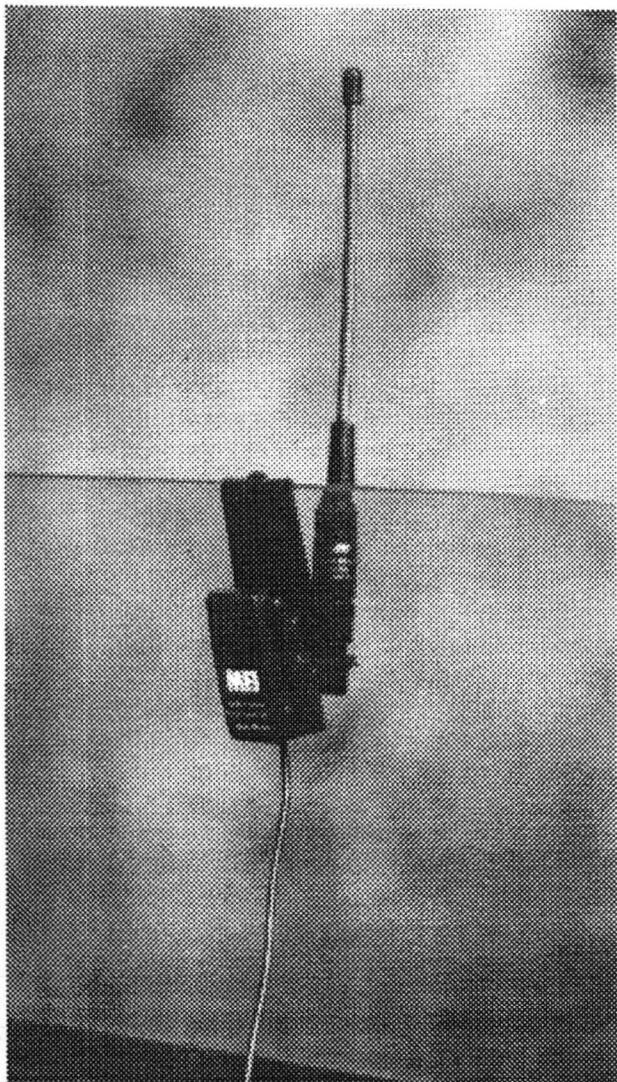
Bart Jahnke, W9JJ/1 • ARRL/VEC Manager



**Coming soon to a band near you:
FIELD DAY
June 26 and 27
(Always the last full weekend in June)**

New Products

MFJ-310 HT antenna window mount clip



Your HT and rubber duck radiate poorly inside your car. The shielding effect of your car's roof gives you a very short range of QSO power.

With your HT antenna outside of the car in MFJ's new \$14.95 HT window mount antenna clip, the, the QSO range is greatly extended. The window mount clip with BNC connector holds your antenna securely on the outside of your car's window where it can radiate freely. It's quick and easy to install and can be tucked away discreetly in your car's glove compartment to eliminate theft problems.

The MFJ-310 HT Window Mount Clip comes with ten feet of flexible low cost mini-coaxial cable. It easily can be pushed into tiny crevices in your automobile to make a comfortable mobile QSO. No more thick coax laying all over your car!

MFJ's new HT window mount clip is protected by MFJ's famous No Matter What (TM) one year limited warranty. That means MFJ will repair or replace (at our option) your MFJ-310 for one complete year.

Extend your QSO range! Talk further, longer and clearer with MFJ's new HT window mount clip for mobile operation.

MFJ press release

Mirage B-320-G 2-Meter Power Amplifier



Mirage's new *BruteForce™* dual purpose amplifier gives you 200 watts of brutal power from your low power handheld or high power mobile. It's two amplifiers in one. A switch selects .25 to 10 watt handheld amp or 10 to 50 watt mobile amplifier.

Mirage's LED *PowerGraph™* indicates output power and comes completely alive with 200 watts. It gives you all mode FM/SSB/CW 2 meter operation.

A low noise 15dB GaAsFET preamp lets you dig out really weak stations and can be used even if your B-320-G is off. The B-320-G has an on/off switch with a "power on" LED.

Mirage's new 200 watt HT or mobile amplifier is super rugged. It comes with SWR protection with LED, RF sense transmit/receive switch and reverse polarity protection.

A custom wrap-around heat sink and quiet cooling fan gives excellent heat dissipation for cool operation. It's a super compact 7 3/4W x 2 3/4H x 9 3/4D inches

that'll fit anywhere.

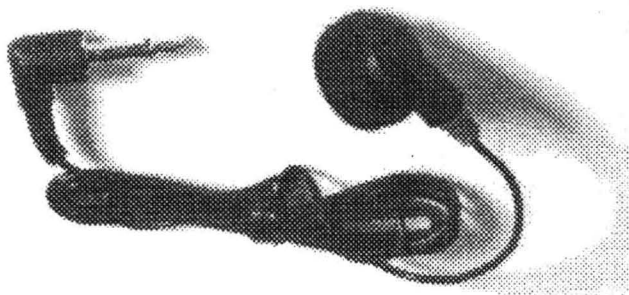
Mirage's new B-320-G comes with free mobile mounting brackets, free mobile patch cable, and rubber feet that keep it put on your table.

The new B320-G *BruteFORCE™* 200 watt amplifier is covered by Mirage's superb one year warranty.

For your nearest dealer, call 800-647-1800; FAX 601-323-6551; email: mirage@mfj@mfjenterprises.com or check out dealer and ordering information on our fantastic Web site: <http://www.mirageamp.com>

Mirage news release

MFJ 291I / MFJ 291K Earbud Earphone



MFJ's new *HandyPal™* earbud earphone comes with a comfortable foam earpiece that fits securely in your ear. *One size fits all.* It lets you continuously monitor your receive audio and you can hear your radio in a

loud, noisy environment, and costs just \$4.95.

It's a super lightweight earpiece that lets you listen to your radio and still carry on a conversation with the people around you. It's a perfect companion for going to hamfests, sporting events, in your car, and in active sports like jogging, hunting, biking, and mountain climbing. *Don't leave home without it!*

Durable 39 inch cord with extra plastic at the bend points will provide years of use. **MFJ-291I** is suitable for Icom, Yaesu, Standard, Alinco, ADI, Radio Shack and other compatible transceivers. Use with the MFJ-418 Morse Code Tutor and other electronic devices using a mono earphone plug to enjoy quiet listening. **MFJ-291K** is for Kenwood and compatible hand held transceivers.

MFJ-291 K/I has an impedance of 8Ω. Its cycle response is 50 - 18,000 Hz; sensitivity is 85 dB (10mW/cm). It has a 3.5 mm plug and weighs just 23 grams.

MFJ's *HandyPal™* earbud earpiece comes with MFJ's famous *No Matter What™* one year limited warranty. That means that MFJ will repair or replace (at our option) your earphone for one complete year.

To order, or for your nearest dealer, call 800-647-1800; FAX 601-323-6551; e-mail mfj@mfjenterprises.com, or check out dealer and ordering information on our Web site: <http://www.mfjenterprises.com> □

Swapfest '98

The South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Saturday, July 11, 1998
6 a.m.
American Legion Post
434 • Oak Creek, WI

Tickets: \$5.00

Food • Drinks • Camping

Free Beer - HAPPY TIME! - Free Soda

Talkin frequency:
146.52

Phone:
414-762-3235

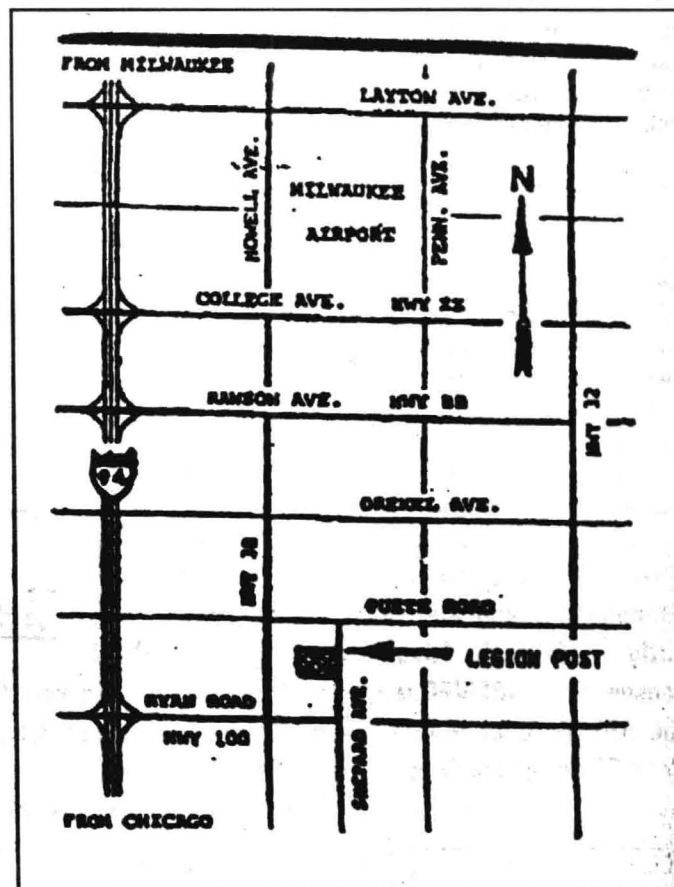
1st Prize: \$100.00

2nd Prize: \$75.00

3rd Prize: 50.00

4th Prize: 25.00

HOURLY PRIZES!



Badger Contesters VHF club meets



Front row: Harvey Friedrich, N9NDP, Kenosha; Ted Heilmann, N9NLT, Grafton; Eric Rugowski, AF9J, Manitowoc; Greg Seidl, K9KL, Green Bay; Marc Holdwick, N9KWX, Plymouth MI; and John Feltz, W9JN, Junction City. **Back row:** Austin Kyser, KB9PCW, Appleton; Joe Reed, N9JR, Milwaukee; Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, Slinger; John Wilke, WB9-VYP, Milwaukee; Ralph Totzke, W9KHH, Grafton;

Ken Boston, WF9X, Germantown; Lester Peterson, W9YCV, Greenfield; Ralph Doll, N9LAD, Oak Creek; Keith Belongia, W9NFL, Racine; Bruce Herrick, WW1M, Milwaukee; and Gary Keating, ND9Z, Kaukauna.

Photo courtesy of John Feltz, W9JN

A shack visit and meeting of the Badger Contesters club was held at the home of Ken Boston, WF9X, in Germantown WI on April 25, 1998.

Seventeen hams, mainly from the southeastern part of the state attended, but amateurs from as far away as Michigan, Green Bay, and central Wisconsin were in attendance.

Ken showed his "hill top" location and station. It's no wonder he scores high in the various VHF contests and puts a solid signal to the Midwest. His ample station from HF through microwave is neatly laid out and very functional.

Several points of interest were brought up. Contesting, mobile roving, antenna design, and the new HSMS (high-speed meteor scatter mode) were discussed. Many of the group mentioned they are trying new VHF bands with good results.

The group meets Tuesdays on 144.250 SSB at 8 p.m. local time. The net will likely be too active during the summer. It will start up in early September.

The next shack visit will be on Sunday, June 7, in conjunction with the Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs Swapfest/Auction in Junction City, WI.

- John Feltz, W9JN

SAREX scrambling to fill Thomas' dance card

With only weeks to go before US astronaut Andy Thomas must return to Earth from the Russian Mir space station, efforts are under way to schedule as many Mir-school contacts as possible. Thomas, who's KD5CHF, is scheduled to end his tour aboard the aging Russian space outpost in early June.

On tap for May so far are Mir Amateur Radio contacts with schools in New Hampshire, South Africa, Texas, Tennessee, and, possibly, Connecticut. The South African contact will occur during the Africa Telecom 98 conference, to demonstrate how Amateur Radio on Mir -- and eventually aboard the International Space Station -- can benefit education. Attempts also are being made to firm up contact schedules with school groups in Australia. The Australian government has issued Thomas, a native of Adelaide, the special call sign VK5MIR.

Thomas has been especially active in recent months catching up on the backlog of school contacts, which were halted after serious technical problems cropped up aboard Mir in 1997. He has also managed a few casual contacts. Nearly all of the activity has been on 70 cm.

The Mir crew has been preoccupied the past few weeks with repair work that included a series of space walks that precluded Amateur Radio activities. Last week, Mir's cosmonauts and ground controllers fired up the station's new thruster engine. The engine keeps Mir's solar panels properly oriented toward the sun. Cosmonauts Talgat Musabayev, RO3FT, and Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, completed three space walks during April to replace the thruster.

The ARRL Letter, 5/3/98

US team to take on world-class foxhunters

For the first time ever, a team of US hidden transmitter hunters -- or "fox hunters" -- plans to compete at the ninth ARDF World Championships. The US team will represent the ARRL at the event, to be held September 1-6 in Nyiregyhaza, Hungary (250 km east of Budapest). More than two dozen countries are expected to send their best on-foot foxhunters to this world competition, being organized by the Varosi Radio Club in Nyiregyhaza. The eighth ARDF World Championships were held last September in Sankt Englmar, Germany.

The ARDF World Championships follow established IARU foxhunting rules, using standard orienteering maps, punches, cards, and control flags. During separate events on 2 meters and 80 meters, five low-power "fox" transmitters are concealed in a large woods. The VHF and HF events are held on separate days. Each competitor, working independently, uses direction-finding techniques to find as many foxes as possible within two hours. Competitors and awards are separated into divisions on the basis of age and sex.

The ARRL's ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, says there's still room on Team USA for more foxhunters. Each competitor must be responsible for his or her own transportation, food, lodging and incidentals. For more information on how you can participate, contact Moell at Box 2508, Fullerton, CA 92633; e-mail homingin@aol.com. "Time is of essence, because diplomatic and travel arrangements must be made well in advance," Moell says. Canadian amateurs should contact RAC National ARDF Coordinator Perry Creighton, VE7WWP, 4011 Hollyridge Place, Victoria, BC V8N 5Z8.

For more information on ARDF, visit the K0OV Web site, <http://members.aol.com/homingin/>.

The ARRL Letter, 5/3/98

THE CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS

Presents the 21st annual

SWAPFEST and AUCTION

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1998

JUNCTION CITY, WI

U.S. Army Reserve Center

BIGGER and BETTER

- Indoor facilities are three times larger than last year
- Huge paved parking lot for the tailgaters
- Indoor dealers unload at the tables • Saturday setup and security
- ARRL FCC exams at 9 a.m. • Food all day long

The big auction starts at 12 noon, featuring our own Col. Bruce Walther, W9QAH, auctioneer.

Talkin: 146.67 (WB9QFW/R) and 146.985 (W9NN/R)

Junction City is 12 miles west of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, on U.S. 10

Tables are \$4 each IF tables are requested before May 15. After May 15, tables will be \$7 plus admission. Admission tickets will be \$3 and free for children under 12. A limited number of electrical hookups are available (free of charge) and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors will be open to the public at 8 a.m. (6:30 a.m. to vendors choosing Sunday morning setup), with shutdown by 1:30 p.m.

We're encouraging tailgaters to sell their unsold goods at our AUCTION at noon. This should keep more buyers on hand throughout the morning and early afternoon.

For more information, please call, write, or e-mail: John Feltz, W9JN, 973 E. First Street, Junction City, WI 54443-9614

Phone: (715) 457-2506 • E-mail: jfw9jn@tznnet.com



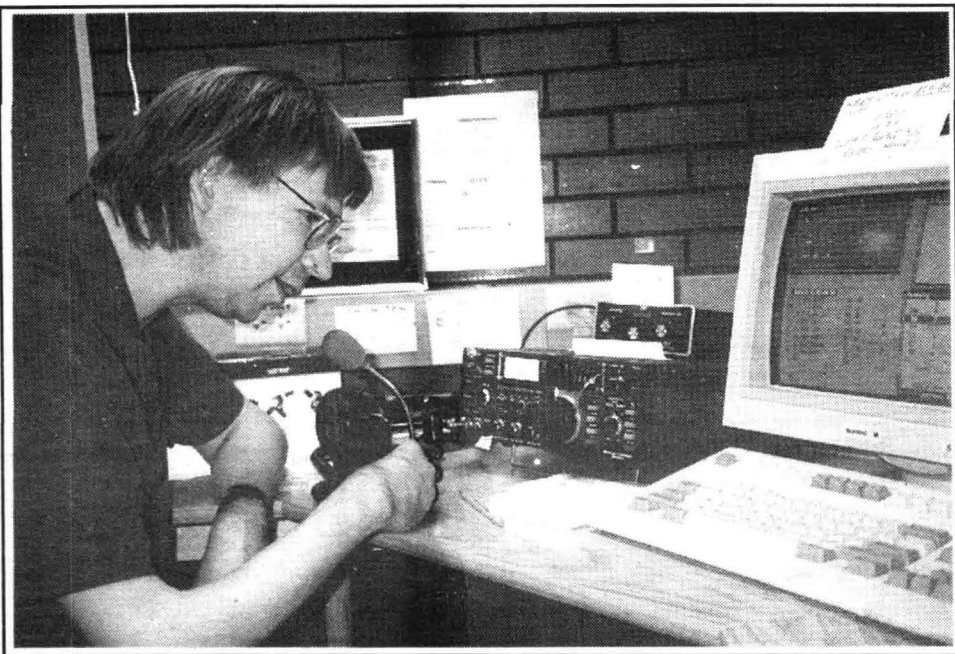
SSB

SELL SWAP BUY

OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

FOR SALE: Collins KWM-2, PM-2 power supply, crystal pack, and Samsonite case (round emblem). \$650.00. Kenwood TS-430S and PS-430 power supply. \$550.00. Kenwood TS-60S, six meters, 100 watts, new condition. \$825.00. W9HJV, 608-

W 9 S does lots of business



Kevin Kolpitke, WB9YHB, puts in some time at W 9 S operating position HF2.



One of the operators at HF1 was Mary, KF9ZB.

Photos courtesy Don Michalski, W9IXG

W9S: 1835 QSOs in a week

The FLARC W9S Sesquicentennial special event is over! After a rather slow start, no thanks to the Sun gods blasting us with a major solar storm - the worst in a decade - we picked up speed during the final days and racked up a total of 1835 contacts! Most of the contacts, 1300+, were on 20 meters SSB followed by 40 meters SSB, 346 QSOs. While the event was a long one, we are glad that we had scheduled the time to wait out the storm and make it a tremendous success.

Here is a final report from Bruce, WA2DEU:

A total of 74 contacts were made from the secondary operational site at the American Red Cross - Badger Chapter Radio Room. While the majority of these contacts were on VHF (2 meters) some contacts were made on 15 meters (5), 10 meters (10), and 6 meters (1). However, an additional benefit was the long operational period (a total of 72 hours) of the equipment and the Special Event also provided a time to determine what the

equipment (HF and VHF) was capable of doing in terms of communications. Contacts were made on 2 meters (simplex) as far north as Fox Lake, WI and as far east as Ixonia, WI. (This information is valuable during a response to a disaster).

The American Red Cross and F.L.A.R.C. are thanked for the use of their facilities and/or equipment during this time. A personal thank you is also expressed by Bruce Micales (WA2DEU) to all those that visited the Red Cross station either "on the air" and/or in person.

Thanks go out to Bruce and Mack, N9NTB, who operated the WEM site and all the 24 operators who had to patience to hang in there and get the chance to finally work the pileups we knew were going to be there.

Many have become skilled operators, as a result.

I would especially like to express my gratitude to Steve, KB9RRM, for his help in scheduling the operators and setting up the event. He was always there to lend a hand. I couldn't have done it without him!

Remember, also, that the SPARC facility is now up and running for future events by the club. For example,

a special event during Space Week. Other ideas are welcome. We now know the procedure for applying for future special event calls.

Finally, FLARC has now been given notoriety in all the major ham publications and around the country. Quite an achievement and one that will be remembered for many years by those that worked us and proudly post our beautiful certificate or QSL card. I expect an equal amount of commitment put into preparing and sending out these awards by the club later this summer.

Again, congratulations to all committee members and participants. You've made history!

73, Don, W9IXG,
Chairman

Did your club operate a sesquicentennial special event station? If you did, we'd like to tell our readers. A short story and some good photos are fine. Send to: Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412 1/2 Ash Street, Baraboo WI 53913, or email: smokesigs@baraboo.com

Virginia's new tower law attracts attention

Virginia's newly enacted Amateur Radio antenna law got some prominent ink in *The Washington Post* on May 4. In an article, "Virginia aims to Reach New Heights," writer Dan Eggen describes how Virginia's new law "trumps stricter limits imposed by local governments such as Arlington County, which has limited towers to 58 feet in many residential neighborhoods." The new law, which goes into effect July 1, incorporates the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. But it also includes the most generous regulatory limit on the height of towers installed in Virginia's rural areas -- 200 feet. In urban areas, the regulatory minimum is 75 feet. Eggen's article says the legislation "makes Virginia the most permissive state in the nation when it comes to Amateur Radio antennas."

Among those quoted in the article was Bob Ham, KK4IY, of Vinton. The aptly-named Ham was the individual who started the ball rolling, then kept up the momentum, to get the tower law enacted in the face of fierce opposition from local and county government lobbies. Also getting mention was ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. Imlay predicted that Virginia's law will "inspire similar proposals elsewhere." ARRL SEC and Virginia State RACES officer Frank Mackey, K4EC, of Springfield, said "darn few hams" can afford to put up a 200-foot tower. "All anybody was looking for was an reasonable solution, and I think this is reasonable," he's quoted as saying.

Eggen's article includes a graphic that compares the relative heights of a typical two-story house, a lamp post, a power pole, a high-voltage electric tower and both 75-foot (urban limit) and 200-foot (rural limit) Amateur Radio towers. The 200-foot structure towers above the others. Virginia has more than 16,400 hams.

The ARRL Letter, 5/3/98

**THANK YOU
FOR READING
BADGER STATE SMOKE
SIGNALS!**



EAU CLAIRE
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
15th ANNUAL

HAMFEST & COMPUTER EXPO

Eau Claire County Exposition Center - Eau Claire, WI

- Get Your Tickets and Table Reservations Early -

Doors Open at 8:00 AM - Saturday July 11, 1998

Advanced Exhibitor Setup - Friday 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM & Saturday 6:00 AM - Security Provided Friday Night

- * Computers
- * Monitors/Printers/Modems
- * Electronic Components
- * New & Used
- * FREE PARKING
- * Handicap Accessible
- * Ham Gear HF/VHF
- * Commercial Dealers
- * Antennas VHF/UHF

RAFFLE PRIZE DRAWING

First Prize	KENWOOD TM-261A
Second Prize	ICOM IC-T22A
Third Prize	HP-DeskJet Color Printer
Fourth Prize	MFJ 116 12/24 Hour Clock
Raffle Prize Drawing 1:00 PM on 07/11/98 Need Not Be Present To Win Raffle Prize	

VE EXAMINATIONS

Saturday July 11 - 9 AM to 12 PM
To Take The Exam You Must Bring The Following:
Orig & Copy of Your Current License (If Any)
Orig & Copy of Your C.S.C.E. (If Any)
Sufficient Knowledge To Pass The Examination
Photo ID
Test Fee: \$ 6.35

* FREE COFFEE *

Delicious Food - Reasonable Prices

Down load a reservation form from our Web Page
<http://www.ecarc.org>

TICKETS & TABLES

Admission - Advance \$ 5.00
At The Door - \$ 6.00
Raffle Ticket \$ 1.00 6 for \$ 5.00
Tables (8 ft Tables) \$ 10.00
Tailgating (Does Not Include Table) \$ 5.00

- Information or Advance Registration Form -

Jim Staatz KG9MV Carol Ceraso N9TUA
715-838-9108 715-723-9205
kg9mv@ecol.net ceraz@execpc.com
Make Check Payable To: E.C.A.R.C.
P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867

DIRECTIONS

I-94/Hwy 93 Exit (68) at Eau Claire, South on Hwy 93 1/4 mile, then right on Lorch Ave between Ken Vance & Jim Carter Ford to the Exposition Center.

* Talk-in on the E.C.A.R.C. 146.31/91 Repeater *

PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Kim Kunze, N9SDL, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output

MEETING MINUTES May 5th, 1998

The meeting was called to order by Jim, N9SDI. Members present were N9SDL, KB9DZG, KB9FRB, N9IAB, N9TTA, KB9MCZ, N9NRC, KB9DED, N9LIA, N9MEA, KB9RXA, KA1T, W9VHA, WD9CPY, N9NQ, KC9NW, N9NQQ, KB9RXB, N9NRA, KB9RW, N9WPH, K9QM, N9NQW, N3FDE. The minutes from last month meeting were approved from a motion by KB9DED and 2nd by KB9DZG.

Treasurer's report was approved after a motion by N9NRA and 2nd by N9LIA.

We will be having a club sponsored Special Event Station for the 150th celebration of Wisconsin Statehood and operating as W9W. The date will be Friday May 29th 6:00 p.m. until Saturday, May 30th 6:00 p.m. Operators interested, see a board member. A certificate will be provided to confirmed contacts and receipt of a 9 x 12 SASE.

Field Day will be held at Camp Phillips on June 27 and 28, noon to noon. The tower on Rib will be replaced soon. Any antennas such as ours that can't be supported by written documentation will not have a home on the new tower. Mike, N9IAB will check for our paperwork.

New Business

It was approved by members present to change the club meeting time to 7:00 p.m.

instead of 7:30 p.m. A motion made by KB9DED and 2nd by WD9CPY was approved to reserve a shelter for the club picnic and fox hunt with Marathon Park as the first choice and Bluegill Bay Park as the second choice. Club will pay the reservation fee of up to \$30 give or take. This event to be held July 11, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A change to the Wednesday Night Net starting time to 9:00 p.m. was approved by members from a motion by N3FDE and 2nd by N9IAB. The first 9:00 net will be May 20th. We need net control operators. We will even train. Interested individuals contact one of the board members.

It was decided to update our club insurance for liability and property from a motion by N9LIA and 2nd from KA1T and have N9MEA get the new replacement value policies after working with N9IAB on an updated property list which should include the telescopic mast, the laptop computer and 6 meter repeater plus anything else that should be listed.

The meeting was adjourned after a motion from N9NRA and 2nd from N9IAB.

Rich Mayer, KC9NW, presented a Weather Spotting discussion and handout information. He also presented Mike Wild, KB9DED a certificate for his new position as the Assistant Emergency Coordinator. Thanks, Rich, for the presentation.

Respectfully submitted:
Kim Kunze, N9SDL

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Art Evans, KA9KLZ, Secretary

213 N. Jefferson • Cuba City WI 53807-1558

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Manager
BWN	Yes	3985	1200	0700	W9RCW
BEN	Yes	3985	1800	1300	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2330	1830	K9UTQ
WNN	Yes	3723	0000	1700	N9MXW
WSSN	Yes	3645	0030	1930	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0100	2000	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0400	2300	W9UW
RCRA	No	01/61 (Mondays CDT)	0030 (Menomonie Area)	1930	KA9OMC
Gr. Bay	No	72/12 (Green Bay Area)	0245	2145	WB9NRK
ARES	No	4.65/5.25 (South East/South Central Wisconsin)	0200	2100	
RACES	No	3993.5 (LSB Sunday)	1400	0900	WA9OAY

WISCONSIN NTS TRAFFIC REPORT April 1998

Traffic and check-ins were both down during the month of April. The longer days and warmer weather have an effect on the participation of the nets. With six of the seven nets reporting, 3276 stations passed 2142 messages. BWN/1881, BEN/90, WSBN/83, WNN/21, WSSN/29, WIN-E/No report from N/M, and WIN-L/38.

Twelve stations had traffic totals in excess of 100, five of whom made Brass Pounders League. The stations were: K9JPS/1108 (BPL), W9RCW/1056 (BPL), W9IHW/982 (BPL), WB9JSW/768 (BPL), W9CBE/586 (BPL), WB9YPY/371, W9YCV/182, K9FHI/155, N9KHD/154, K9RTB/125, N9CK/105, and N9BDL/102.

Twenty eight stations submitted Station Activity Reports and thirteen stations submitted Public Service Honor Roll Reports.

Beginning May 1, 1998, Pat Carlson, KB9OCZ, is the new net manager of the Wisconsin Novice Net. A big thanks to Rob Wilcken, KA9GBG, who has done a fine job as the WNN N/M for the last few years. Let us give Pat our support for the

upcoming years.

I mail my reports to League Headquarters on the 7th of the month. That makes the deadline for reports the 6th. I can accept reports until I start printing them up for mailing. If you can catch me on the BWN on the morning of the 7th all would be well.

Hale Blakely, W9CBE, Asst. STM will also accept reports and forward them to me. Hale covers most of the CW and SSB nets, so there is someone on almost every net to take reports.

Reports can also be sent via packet or e-mail.

My packet address is:
KA9KLZ@KC9KQ.WI.USA.NOAM

My e-mail address is:
aevans@mhtc.net

Thanks to all stations who participate in the Wisconsin nets. You are the nets and Wisconsin nets are the best. 73.

Submitted by:
Arthur A. Evans, KA9KLZ
Wisconsin Section Traffic Manager
May 7, 1998

The Racine Megacycle Club



Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI

ARRL Affiliated

Providing Communications for American Red Cross and ARES

Mary Urban, N9ZWE, Secretary

c/o RMC • P. O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 53401-0003

e-mail: w9udu@wi.net • Web: <http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/>

MEETING MINUTES April 13, 1998

The April 13, 1998 regular membership meeting of the Racine Megacycle Club opened at 7:32 p.m. at the American Red Cross Building. President Rees Roberts, K9UUT, and Secretary Mary Urban, N9ZWE, were present.

Secretary Mary, N9ZWE, read the minutes of the March 9, 1998 meeting. Bob, W9EH, moved to accept the minutes as read. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer Dave, AA9HL, read the treasurer's report. Bob, W9EH, moved that the treasurer's report be accepted. The motion was seconded and approved.

President Rees, K9UUT, announced that Activities Director Harold Peterson, KB9LXM, has resigned. A special election was held to fill the vacancy. Jonathan Pauli, KB9PUF, was nominated. Nominations were closed and a unanimous vote was taken in favor of electing Jonathan, KB9PUF, as Activities Director.

Rob, KF9ZT, chairman of the Hamfest committee requested a meeting of the committee members after the RMC meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob, W0WLN, reported on the activities of the Testing Team.

Dan, KA9OIL, reported that the Swan radio has been found. It was in the possession of N9PMO and has been repaired for the cost of the parts.

A discussion was held about the upcoming Hamfest and Field Day.

Rees, K9UUT, announced that he has received a letter from the IRS requesting further information for our application for 501(c)3 tax status.

A discussion was held on the progress of the web page.

NEW BUSINESS

Rees, K9UUT, talked about Skywarn. Ken, N9WHR, made a motion that the club purchase a new radio. The first motion died for lack of a second. The motion was again brought up and seconded so further discussion was held. Larry, WA9JMO, made a motion to table the discussion and it was seconded and approved.

Next month's guest speaker will be Lloyd, WB9RGO.

Mary, N9ZWE, announced area ham fests and has an updated Silent Key list.

Rees, K9UUT, read a letter the club received from SETI.

Ken, N9WHR, made a motion to close the meeting at 8:04 p.m. It was seconded and approved.

Larry, WA9JMO, gave a presentation about how the club's handling of future Amateur Radio classes.

FCC SEQUENTIAL CALLSIGN UPDATE

The following is a list of FCC sequentially assigned call signs issued as of May 4, 1998. For more information about the sequential call sign system, see Fact Sheet PR5000 #206S.

District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AB0HN	KI0MY	++	KC0DJX
1	AA1TO	KE1JP	++	KB1CTL
2	AB2FF	KG2OH	++	KC2DLZ
3	AA3RD	KF3BP	++	KB3CNN
4	AF4JM	KU4RI	++	KF4YFS
5	AC5PW	KM5QG	++	KD5ECI
6	AD6FE	KQ6VT	++	KF6QQZ
7	AB7XX	KK7NH	++	KD7BPI
8	AB8CM	KI8FX	++	KC8KAX
9	AA9VZ	KG9NK	++	KB9SSC
N. Mariana Is	NH0E	AH0AY	KH0GW	WH0ABI
Guam	++	AH2DH	KH2TJ	WH2ANW
Hawaii	NH7H	AH6PJ	KH7JP	WH6DEN
American Samoa	AH8P	AH8AH	KH8DM	WH8ABF
Alaska	AL0K	AL7RD	KL0OO	L7CUS
Virgin Is	++	KP2CN	NP2KC	WP2AIJ
Puerto Rico	NP3W	KP3BG	NP3WH	WP4NNQ

++ All call signs in this group have been issued in this district.

At University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point



WB9QFW 2-Meter Repeater 146.07-.67 and Club Station

249 Georgia Street North • Stevens Point WI 54481-1040

Meeting Minutes May 13, 1998

The meeting was opened at 7:30 sharp by president Mike Pagel, K9UW.

The first item on the agenda was a program, presented by Jerry Fadness, W9GF, "I need a new hard drive". Jerry demonstrated how and where to look for files deposited on your hard drive by internet and mail programs. Frequent and prolonged use of the internet and mail programs can easily deposit several MB at each use. Failure to clean-up these files periodically will eventually cause you problems. The program was followed by questions from the members.

The April meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Art Wysocki N9BCA, and seconded by Al Mallek, K9WVM. The financial report, given by Mike Pagel, K9UW, was also approved without objections.

Repeater Reports: Mike Pagel, K9UW, reports the 670 machine is operating satisfactorily. Robert Baird, W9NN, reports that the 985 machine is still noisy at times. After some discussion it was agreed that we replace the coax before proceeding with other measures to quiet the unit.

A motion by Al Mallek, K9WVM, and seconded by John Feltz, W9JN, that the club purchase 1-TS450S radio from Mike Eiden, WD9JID, was approved by the members. The price and conditions agreed to by both parties will be spelled out in a document to be prepared by Al Mallek, K9WVM.

Mike Urban, KB9GXV, spoke on the preparations and planning for the Special Olympics to be held the first weekend in June. Club members were urged to come out and provide communication services as they have done in the past. There will be training sessions held on June 1, 2, at the Allen Center at 7:00 p.m.

Tornado Awareness Day summary was given by EC Jerry Fadness, W9GF, and certificates were presented to members who completed a Weather Spotters Training Course.

Mike Pagel, K9UW, spoke briefly about the contributions and attributes of Frank Guth, W9BCC. (Frank Guth died this past week, requiescat in pace). Frank touched the lives of many people in this community. He gave unselfishly of himself to many local projects and community activities. Frank participated in many emergency and simulated disasters on local, state, and national level. He was instrumental in organizing the local "Point Radio Amateurs" club in 1947 and reorganizing the club in 1977 now known as "Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs, Ltd.

It is difficult to visualize amateur radio in Central Wisconsin without Frank Guth.

Field Day update was given by Al Mallek, K9WVM. Note the change of location. This year, Field Day will be held at the Art Wysocki, N9BCA, residence, due to unavailability of last year's site. We will also have a new rig and a rebuilt beam for the contest. Motion by Art Wysocki N9BCA, and Robert Baird, W9NN, to provide food and libation for Field Day was approved in the amount of \$ 75.00.

Mike Pagel, K9UW, established a committee to explore and proceed to achieve a non-profit status for the club. Members on the committee are David Tamres, KB9IIF; Joe Larson, N9JW; Jerry Fadness, W9GF; and Scott Jasper, NE9U.

John Feltz, W9JN, gave us an update on preparation for the swap fast. There will be a need for members to come out and help. A special meeting regarding the swapfest will be held on Thursday May 28 at the club station. Everyone is encouraged to attend so that various work details will be assigned.

Mike Pagel, K9UW, informs us that at the annual Midwest Renewable Energy Fair, to be held in June, ham operators will have the opportunity to operate their equipment using solar power.

Scott Jasper, NE9U, reported on the progress of the raffle ticket sales.

June and July meeting sites will be at UW Stevens Point; be alert to possible change.

Respectfully submitted
Al Mallek N9WBS, Secretary

Attendance

Jerry Fadness	W9GF
Robert Baird	W9NN
Mark Nemzoff	N9ICY
Mike Eiden	WD9JID
Gene Kroll	KE9MA
Deb Kroll	N9EIL
Kathy Mallon	KB9ROJ
Art Wysocki	N9BCA
Al Mallek	K9WVM
Scott Jasper	NE9U
Joe Omernik	N9CGV
Mike Peters	W9CO
John Feltz	W9JN
Mike Pagel	K9UW
Wayne Johnson	K9MIF
Mike Urban	KB9GXV
Mary Eiden	KA9FAS
Jan Rydberg	KB9RUJ
David Tamres	KB9IIF
Joe Larson	N9JW
Bruce Walther	W9QAH
Al Mallek	N9WBS
Cory Koziczowski	

FCC assures amateur community at Dayton

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Cross also welcomed comments on petitions before the Commission and suggested copies to the ARRL where League petitions were involved. Cross said the FCC already has received many comments on -- but none in support of -- RM-9259. That's the

Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, President

2373 Willow Avenue • Medford WI 54451

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, June 4th at 7 p.m. in the Emergency Government meeting room located in the basement of the sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Talk-in on the 147.15 Medford repeater (+600 kHz) or 146.52 MHz simplex.

MEETING AGENDA/PROGRAM

- Status report on acquisition of new repeater controller.
- Discussion of donations of new Amateur Radio license study guides to some area libraries.
- Discussion and decision on conducting a survey of interests of area Amateur Radio operators.
- Discussion of invitation from Medford Downtown Business Assn. to have the club participate in a parade in Medford in August.

- Discussion/planning for July 4th Amateur Radio exhibit at Red Arrow Park in Abbotsford.
- Field Day 1998.

CLARK/TAYLOR COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) NEWS

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ
ARES Emergency Coordinator

Don't forget to try to check into the weekly ARES net held Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. on the Medford repeater (147.75/147.15). If the repeater is down or not functioning properly, alternate frequencies, in order, are 147.15 MHz simplex and 146.52 MHz simplex. You're also encouraged to volunteer for net control duty for the net. □

Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Radne, WI 53402



Armed with "handily-talkies" or mobile installed radios, six of our members provided communication during the May 1, 1998 10-K annual Lutheran High School walk in Racine. Emmet (Al) Algiers, W9HR, Spencer Clope, W9LDH, Fern Fisher, W9LCJ, Bill Komistra, W9OVZ, Ed Konicek, W9NVK, and Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO, were ably assisted by Bill Firchow, NW9P, Lloyd Gorsiski, WB9RGO, Kathy Madson, N9ZWN, Mike Melnik, N9PMO, and Rick Panyk, KG9-ER, in another flawless event. The Lutheran High School staff were very appreciative of our participation as attested to by the warm individual thank you letters and event "T" shirt each received. It is always personally rewarding (intrinsically) to assist in community endeavors when the host is so gracious with the verbal accolades for our small contributions to their function.

The Great Mosquito Awareness Outing is just around the corner. Ken, N9NBC, and Marbeth Knoff are again opening their estate to host this world renowned annual gathering of the clan. The Mosquito Bash will be held on Sunday, June 14, 1998, at 16616 12th Street, Paris (Kenosha County) beginning at 1 pm. Each attendee is asked to bring a dish to pass and their own meat to grill. Directions and further details can be gleaned from our Thursday evening net

-- 9 p.m. on 147.270 MHz, the Lakeshore Repeater. We are looking forward to seeing all of you on the 14th!

Ellanora (Herb, W9PHJ) Ladwig, at this writing, has kidney blockage that will hopefully have at least one cleared during the next several days. With that accomplished and a control on her blood pressure, we will all look forward to have her join us in our social functions once again. Ellanora, you are in all our prayers.

Fern, W9LCJ, and Bob Jensen, W0WLN, have moved into the fast electronic lanes. Both have recently signed on to electronic mail: Fern at w9lcj@juno.com and Bob at w0wln@juno.com. If you have the capabilities, drop each an electronic message.

Bill, W9OVZ commented on his return from the Dayton Hamvention, "So much to see, so little time". Bill had a wonderful time. He also brought a show-and-tell project to our May business meeting -- a kit built keyer that he had to polish the brass and paint the base during the assembly process. It was nice! I wish I had one. I think Bill said you could order it in a finished form. That's about the only way I could claim to have an operational keyer. A kit would sit with the other kits I am going to assemble -- some day!!

73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO

League's request for a declaratory ruling affirming that amateur operation that conflicts with established voluntary band plans and causes interference or adversely affects those operating in accordance with applicable band plans would be contrary to "good amateur practice." That petition was the subject of a debate in another forum at the same hour Cross spoke.

During his remarks, Cross covered a wide range of topics, from vanity call signs and the biennial rules review to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the soon-to-be-implemented Universal Licensing System. He also joked about how many hams view the FCC. "People have the view that there are two parts to the Commission," he said. "There's ham radio and then there's everything else." The reality is that there are four new commissioners at the FCC and none is a ham. Cross described the goals of the new FCC Chairman, William Kennard, as "community, competition, and common sense."

Cross said that the vanity call sign fee that goes into effect later this year could differ from the \$12.90 the FCC proposed earlier this year, but he didn't offer any specifics. The FCC has issued more than 21,000 vanity call signs since the latest incarnation of the vanity program in 1996 -- 14,000 of them in the past year. "We are still getting 500 to 1000 applications per month," he said, adding that 80% of the applications now are filed electronically via the Internet.

The ARRL Letter, 5/20/98

SORRY! We told you there would be a story in this issue (from a Wisconsin amateur) about Euro-Style fox hunting. The story did not show up. We regret the error.



Washington County Amateur Radio Club

Tom Waldschmidt, N9LZW,
Secretary
465 Elder Lane
Allenton, WI 53002-9799



Club Repeater: 146.73 MHz

<http://www.nconnect.net/~WCARC>

MEETING MINUTES May 14, 1998

The May 14, 1998 meeting of the Washington County ARC was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by President Paul Ripple, W9SIZ, at 7:30 P.M. with 7 members present. They were: Paul, W9SIZ; Tom, N9LZW; Mike, N9JIY; Don, K9GR; Sherm, W9NGT; Paul, N9KIK; and Bill, N9IBU.

Minutes

The minutes of the April meeting were read by Secretary Tom, N9LZW. There was a motion by Don, K9GR, seconded by Sherm, W9NGT, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Repeater Committee Report

A Repeater Committee Report was given by Don, K9GR. Don said that he had talked with the St. Lawrence Fire Dept Chief regarding the antenna which has been installed alongside our repeater antenna.

Don said that when installing PL on the repeater he saw that there are options available including one that would allow open access to local users as long as they

were transmitting with a required power level.

There was some discussion about selling the old cavities from our repeater.

Financial Report

The Financial Report was read by Rip, W9SIZ. There was a motion by Bill, N9IBU, seconded by Sherm, W9NGT, to accept the Financial Report. Motion carried.

Don, K9GR, questioned the location of the club's batteries. Rip, W9SIZ, said that he had one, and Tom, N9LZW, said that he had the other one.

Rip, W9SIZ, said that we had a problem retaining our membership. We had 24 members this year compared to 36 members at the same time last year. Tom, N9LZW, said that as secretary it is his responsibility to contact those members who had not renewed their membership and remind them about it. He will be doing that in the near future.

Rip asked for feedback about the present dues. He said that he has been hearing from some that the dues are too high. Present dues are \$17.00 which is broken down as \$10.32 for an annual subscription to the Badger State Smoke

WCARC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thu	06/04/98 7:30 P.M.	Net, 146.730
Sat	06/06/98 9:00 A.M.	Breakfast, Mineshaft in Hartford
Thu	06/11/98 7:30 P.M.	Club meeting, Washington County Courthouse
Sat	06/13/98 9:00 A.M.	Breakfast, Jimmy's in Jackson
Thu	06/18/98 7:30 P.M.	Net, 146.730
Sat	06/20/98 9:00 A.M.	Breakfast, Mineshaft in Hartford
Thu	06/25/98 7:30 P.M.	Net, 146.730
Sat	06/27/98 8:00 A.M.	Breakfast, Jimmy's in Jackson (Note: Earlier time due to Field Day setup)
Sat	06/27/98 1:00 P.M.	Field Day begins.
Sun	06/28/98 1:00 P.M.	Field Day ends.

BSSS Club Subscription Plans and Rates

NON-COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

Hamfest/Swapfest business card: \$90.00 per year
(includes 1 no-charge flyer reproduction)

Hamfest Flyer reproduction only: \$45.00
Two times: \$80.00
Additional flyer reproductions: \$35.00

There is no additional charge for "Business Card" Swapfest advertisers for one hamfest/swapfest flyer inclusion. \$35.00 for each additional inclusion.

We will reduce a typical 8.5 x 11 inch hamfest/swapfest flyer to fit a 9 inch x 2 column space. The regular business advertiser rate for this ad would be \$73.80 for one time and \$138.60 for two times, resulting in a saving of \$28.80 for one time and \$44.20 for two times. The "business card" plus flyer commercial rate would be \$171.60, with a resultant saving to the hamfest/swapfest advertiser of \$81.60 for one flyer and \$111.40 for two flyer ads. **FLYERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR AT LEAST EIGHT WEEKS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE EVENT.**

CLUB SUBSCRIPTION RATES Subscribing Members of Club Only Effective January 1, 1998

10 or more subscriptions, per year: \$10.92
50 or more subscriptions, per year: \$10.32

All Members of Club
(Billed Quarterly)

Less than 50 members, per year: \$10.32

50 or more members, per year: \$9.72

Must include all members of club to qualify for rate. Up to 15% additional complimentary mailings can be included at no added cost. These are useful for sending BSSS to political or community leaders and/or prospective members. And, your club's minutes are published in BSSS as a service to your club. Contact Badger State Smoke Signals, Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901, (608) 742-3560. kebner@palacenet.com

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During his remarks, Cross covered a wide range of topics, from vanity call signs and the biennial rules review to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the soon-to-be-implemented Universal Licensing System. He also joked about how many hams view the FCC. "People have the view that there are two parts to the Commission," he said. "There's ham radio and then there's everything else." The reality is that there are four new Commissioners at the FCC and none is a ham. Cross described the goals of the new FCC Chairman, William Kennard, as "community, competition, and common sense."

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The ARRL Letter, 5/18/98

Astronaut/Cosmonaut/Ham says "thank you" to terrestrials

I am about to end my time on Mir and I want to thank all the ham operators around the world who have sent messages. I hope it is understood that the volume of traffic has made individual responses impossible but we really enjoy you mail. Voice has been very difficult particularly over the US and Europe. Too many talking at once. In the short time I have left I will try to do voice, but ask that repeat callers stay off the air so that I can give New callers a chance for a contact. Best wishes to all of you.

Andy Thomas

P.S. Remember, for QSL, contact Dave Larsen, N6CO, in California.



SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Mike Musiel, KF9SJ, Secretary
N9001 Dairyland Dr., Cleveland WI 53015

MEETING MINUTES May, 1998

The May meeting of the Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by club president, Kurt, N9ZMO. The SCARC meets every second Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross building, 2032 Erie Ave. in Sheboygan at 7 p.m.

The first item of business is that there will be a regular club meeting on Tuesday, June 9th. This will be the board election meeting for the upcoming year. Please make an effort to attend and cast your vote.

Second, the Red Cross has announced that it is purchasing the building, and that during the transition, the club station will have to be moved out of the building. Kurt, N9ZMO is coordinating this effort. When the building addition has been completed, the club will finally have a secure area in which to keep the station. Stay tuned to the Monday night nets for further updates.

Third, due to a lack of member sign up, there will be no formal club Field Day station this year. If you were planning on attending the Field Day meeting, or event this year, please take note of this. This is not the end of SCARC Field Day

participation, but please keep in mind that you need to sign up early. Much of the reservations and planning for this weekend needs to be done as much as six months in advance. Next year when the sign up sheet is passed around, please let the Field Day committee know early that you will participate. I encourage all club members

Continued on page 21



FOR SALE: Collins KWM-2, PM-2 power supply, crystal pack, and Samsonite case (round emblem). \$650.00. Kenwood TS-430S and PS-430 power supply. \$550.00. Kenwood TS-60S, six meters, 100 watts, new condition. \$825.00. W9HJV, 608-782-2029.

FOR SALE: Yaesu FT101E transceiver in excellent condition - includes matching aux speaker and digital readout display price 325.00. Call Len at 920-682-7990 Manitowoc.

Sheboygan County
Amateur Radio Club

Continued from page 20

to participate in Field Day as individual stations, or join up with other club stations for this event. Entry forms can be found at the ARRL home page. For those who do not have Internet access in the county, please let me know and I will be happy to download a Field Day packet for you.

As I mentioned in a earlier issue, if you are using e-mail, you can sign up for the Sheboygan Hams mailing list by submitting your e-mail address to julian@bongo.tele.com. Email sent to shebham@tele.com will be forwarded to all list subscribers. Thanks to N6ARE for providing the mail server for SCARC and

ADDENDUM TO SCARC MINUTES

Art, K9XJ, gave his monthly DX report. "DX stinks!" He then went on to say that major solar storms have been playing havoc with the bands and the few signals that are getting through sound like "mush." Better days ARE ahead.

The club now has a plaque showing the names of SCARC Silent Keys. Thanks

ARES use.

NET SCHEDULES

7 p.m. Monday nights, SCARC Fun Net, 147.06 PL 107.2, +.

Traders Net - Following the Monday night net on the first Monday of the month.

6:30 p.m. Thursday nights, ARES Net, 147.255 PL 127.3, + , 444.175 PL 107.2 +.

10 net on 28.350 USB. Meets at 7:30 p.m., following the Monday night 2 meter net.

Respectfully submitted:
Michael J. Musiel, KF9SJ

IN MEMORY OF OUR SILENT KEYS

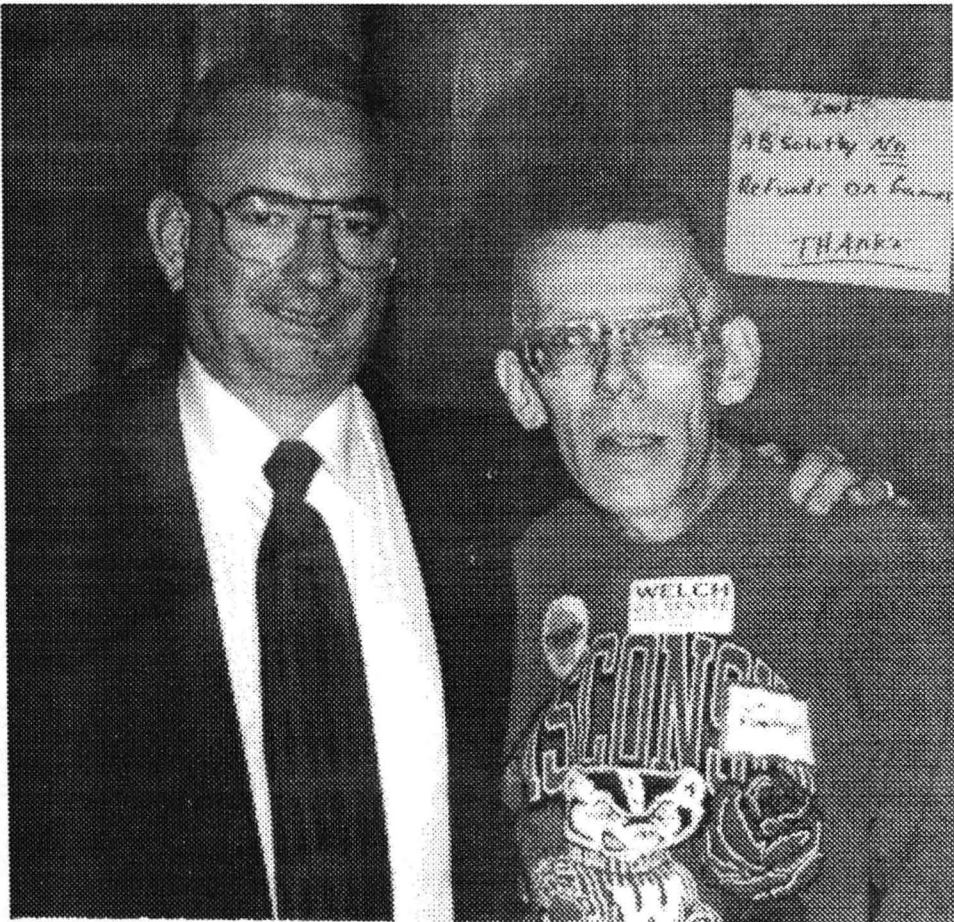
Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club

WA9SUJ	Gary Jacobson	12-20-80
WB9FUM	Orris Hoffmann	7-17-83
WB9NRM	Gene Swita	5-14-86
W9VCL	Irvin Schroeder, MD	10-25-90
WB9JVH	Melvin Sohn	9-17-91
W9MYG	Marvin Bartz	5-1-92
KB9CGO	LaRon Mischock	12-20-92
K9DLF	Benjamin Hamilton	3-27-93
W9IDG	Victor Hoffman	5-10-94
N9WIW	Jan Borgenhagen	12-1-94
W9QYZ	Andrew Houwers	10-10-95
N9RCZ	Robert Stoneman	11-9-95
N9EZI	Walter Nelesen	3-19-96
W9TUJ	Victor Brock	5-17-96
AE9P	Elwood Torke	5-20-97

Each Silent Key is named on a separate plate.

Addendum from Art Pahr, K9XJ

Who's that with K9ZZ?



The dude at right is your editor. The other fellow is Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson. This photo was taken at a fund-raiser. (I do not like to print my own photo, so to prevent that, how about sending along a few pix every now and then.) Don't forget Field Day photos!

Amateur Radio
from the Stratosphere

By Brian Suits, WB8WKN

Amateur radio once again played a key role in the success of the annual Rockets for Schools event on the shore of Lake Michigan in Sheboygan, Wisconsin this May. The event included the launch of many smaller high-power rockets as well as two sub-orbital Super Loki rockets. In addition to several ham radio payloads in smaller rockets built by high school student groups from Wisconsin and Michigan, both payloads for the Super Loki rockets used Amateur Radio transmitters.

The 3rd annual MI/WI Rockets for Schools two day event took place in Sheboygan the weekend of May 16th, 1998. The first day included presentations from local officials and a NASA astronaut, as well as judging of high-power rockets built during the school year by high school teams. The second day was launch day. Approximately thirty of the high-power rockets were launched with a typical peak altitude of 3500 ft. The launch day was concluded with the launch of two sub-orbital Super Loki sounding rockets to an altitude of approximately 34 miles, as well as several special project launches by members of the tripoli rocketry association, one of which briefly provided beautiful Amateur Television (ATV) pictures of Sheboygan.

The Super Loki payloads must survive an initial acceleration of 60 g's during which time the rocket goes from 0 to five times the speed of sound (Mach 5) in just 2 seconds. After coasting for 2 minutes, the payloads are shot out of the rocket by an explosive charge into the cold vacuum of the stratosphere. The rocket is launched from a small rail which gives the rocket a spin of just over 1000 rpm during the first tenth of one second of the launch.

The payloads are the size of a paper towel roller and weigh just under one pound. No one was more surprised that both of this year's payloads worked than their principal builder, Bryan Suits, WB8WKN. During his payload presentation to the High School students, Suits prepared them for the worst telling them "more of these (Rockets for Schools) payloads have failed than have worked, and my confidence in them was badly shaken after the failures last year despite our initial success (in 1996), and by failures of other similar payloads." In a similar Super Loki launch in Delaware a week prior to this event, the Delaware payload did not survive ejection, and in a launch just few days prior in Florida, it was reported that only 12 seconds of data were received from their payload.

For this event, the first Super Loki payload included a simple, home-made, 80 mW 2m narrowband FM transmitter which sent back telemetry using morse code. Signals could be heard for much of the descent using an HT with a rubber duck antenna. Telemetry included payload battery voltage, payload temperature and pressure readings. The pressure sensor and associated electronics for this payload were built and provided by students of Kingsford High School, Kingsford, MI.

The second Super Loki payload included ATV on 434 MHz as well as Morse code telemetry on the ATV audio. Pictures were received and recorded at the launch site by members of the Sheboygan Astronomical Society using a home-made dish antenna. This payload was similar to one launched last year, but with a color rather than a black and white camera.

Signals from both Super Loki payloads were received for approximately 10 minutes after their launch at which point the data received showed that the payloads had reach ground level. Hence, the high-altitude parachutes ("starutes"), which should have slowed the descent to take over an hour, had not properly deployed in both cases. The Super Loki rockets were supplied as surplus to the Aerospace States Association (ASA) for use in this event, and similar projects in other areas of the country, and were launched by members of the Florida Spaceport Authority, the same people who launched the lunar pathfinder mission for NASA this last January.

The starutes were supplied with the rockets and were over ten years past their expiration date. Needless to say, the telemetry and pictures obtained using Amateur Radio this year have convinced the organizers that the outdated starutes should be replaced in the future.

More detailed information about this program and the Super Loki payloads can be found on the Web pages at:

<http://www.phy.mtu.edu/rocket>

Alabama hams have busy week of
weather-spotting

May 9 capped a busy week for the National Weather Service and for hams around Alabama. The Alabama Emergency Response Team--ALERT--responded to requests for communications assistance five times during the week, including twice on May 7, according to ALERT on-call coordinator Janice Rock, KF4PVR. The severe weather May 9 was especially tense, as a supercell thunderstorm showing signs of a tornado moved across Pickens, Tuscaloosa and Jefferson counties. The storm followed a path similar to that of the April 8 Oak Grove tornado. Although some trees were uprooted, there were no reports of major damage or injuries. "Tuscaloosa had spotters out and one spotter was reporting golf ball sized hail," Rock said. "At one point, Tuscaloosa county spotters had to deal with two funnel clouds at the same time. That made for a lot of communications needs."

In west Jefferson county, members of the Hueytown Emergency Amateur Radio Team--HEART--were on the air prior to the tornadoic thunderstorm's approach, and remained active until nearly midnight when Jefferson county and the Birmingham area were placed under a tornado warning for the second time that evening. Spotter groups elsewhere across Alabama also were active as severe weather threatened. Communication took place between spotter groups in several parts of the state and ALERT using the Internet Gateway.

On May 7, when severe weather occurred in DeKalb County, Rock contacted spotters there directly using her home station. "The people in DeKalb county were excited to work with us," she said. "I pulled in a report of half dollar sized hail and the guy said it had knocked out almost every window in his house." --ALERT

The ARRL Letter, 5/14/98



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association

Bob Gedemer, KA9JAC

609 Wilson Street • Neenah, WI 54956

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor • 720 N. Broadway (Upper West) • Green Bay, WI 54303

WAPR News - June 1998

June greetings to all! May has brought us potentially serious news, looks like it is time for us to get to work in June.

Of course the serious news I refer to is the Land Mobile Communications Council petition for reallocation of two-thirds of the 70 centimeter band. WAPR and all Wisconsin packeteers certainly have a vested interest in seeing that this does not come to pass. You might be aware that WAPR operates a high-speed packet backbone in the 440-450 MHz. region. There are also 9600 bps LAN frequencies available for coordination as well.

The plain, hard fact of this is that it will be impractical to share this band with the Land-Mobile interests. If reallocation were to occur, it is very likely that amateurs certainly would wind up on the short end of the stick. The expense of relocating existing nodes to new frequencies is a cost that is unbearable for WAPR's members, just as it is for the rest of the amateur community. The next obvious question deals with just where in the spectrum these links could be relocated? There are a limited number of spots available just below 220 MHz, but not nearly enough to accommodate existing links, let alone the expansion we would like to see.

So it appears that once again ham radio will have to defend use of the radio spectrum. WAPR certainly will voice it's concerns on this matter, and I urge you to do so as well. Please follow the suggestions of the ARRL when sending your comments to the FCC and other interested parties. If you look at the appropriate bulletins on your local BBS, you will find this information, along with a lot of good info on this topic. You can also check out the ARRL Web Page at <http://www.arrl.org>.

Doubtless this will be a topic of conversation at the upcoming WAPR meeting at the Steven's Point hamfest. I certainly hope you can attend. This year's 'fest is held in the same location as last year, the Army Reserve center in Junction City. The meeting will start at about 11:00, and we generally find a place to lunch after the meeting. Be sure to stop by and introduce yourself at the meeting.

In network news, once again the node in Black Creek should be operational. This node has had a series of problems since it first went on the air. Al, KB9BYQ is the owner of the node and has replaced 2 radios at the site. It seems that for some reason, they want to lock into transmit until the power amplifier dies. This is even after a change in TNC! The last resort is to change the cable going from the radio to the TNC and the firmware EPROM in the TNC. It appears that some problems require a "replace everything" approach to be truly solved!

One possible future destination for this node is Waupaca. Aaron, KB9QWC is trying to mobilize the ham community in Waupaca county to set up a complete node stack. This would require a backbone node as well as a LAN node. He also would like to add an internet gateway at some future date.

If you would like to get in on any phase of this project, contact Aaron Hiese, KB9WQC in one of the following ways:

Packet: KB9QWC@KA9JAC.WI.USA.NA

Internet: kb9qwc@skywarn.net

He also operates his packet station on the Outagamie County LAN (145.65).

As a little side note, I will say that this is one of many areas that does have a legitimate need for a backbone and LAN node stack. I operated the packet station for a time from the old National Guard Armory in Waupaca during the Weyauwega derailment, and it was tough to stay connected to the nearest node (in Appleton). Waupaca County operators would do well to give this project strong consideration.

Now, a "programming note". As you may have read last month, the series "Using the Wisconsin Network" is coming to a close. 40 parts is more than I imagined would ever get written, but there is a limit as to what can be written about the Wisconsin Network. Part 40 is the last you will see.

The series will still be available from the WAPR Web page, and an updated version may be printed in the future.

As for now, I will devote the space formerly occupied by this series to packet articles of general interest.

I do welcome your input on this matter. If there is anything concerning packet radio that you would like to see information on, let me know. I will be happy to dig up what I can.

And that brings us to the last item. The membership year for WAPR is coming to a close. Our yearly memberships start in June. If you haven't renewed your membership in WAPR, now is the time. Please take the time to fill out the application form on this page and rejoin WAPR.

And that is all for this month. 'Till next month, 73 from Andy.

Using the Wisconsin Network - Part 40

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

In this last part of our series, I will answer a question asked of me quite some time ago. It is one that may not arouse much more than idle curiosity of you, but it may be of interest. The question: "What is TNOS/LINUX and do I need it?"

Actually, "TNOS/LINUX" indicates two different things. Regular readers of this series may remember that TNOS stands for "Tampa Network Operating System". This is a spruced-up version of the venerable KA9Q NOS that has powered TCP/IP stations for quite a while. It has specialized features and enhancements above the KA9Q NOS and is widely used in Amateur Radio for gateways and BBS's.

The second half of that, Linux, is another thing altogether. This is a different kind of computer operating system - different from DOS, Windows 3.11, and Windows 95. In fact, it is not a Microsoft product, and is quite different from these products.

Linux transforms a standard modern PC into a "Unix computer". Unix is a computer operating system that has it's origins in the AT&T corporation. It is designed to be a multi-user, multi-tasking operating system, unlike DOS (and some would argue Windows). Linux slightly differs from Unix in some of it's commands, but basically is a special version of the Unix operating system intended to be run on the Intel 80x86 processor that is the heart of most personal computers. There is also a special version for Macintosh computers.

What does this have to do with Packet Radio, you might ask? Simple. Because Linux is Multi-user and Multi-

tasking, it allows a BBS or gateway operator a great deal of flexibility with his system. No longer is a computer strictly devoted to BBS use. The multi-tasking nature of Linux makes it possible to not only run the BBS program, but also run one or more other application programs for one or more users. While the BBS runs quietly on one "virtual console", the Sysop can be editing files, playing games, or actually getting some work done!

Linux is an extremely efficient operating system, and because of this efficiency, it can do a whole lot more than a computer using DOS and Windows at one time. It also manages memory by itself - no external memory managers are used to overcome the DOS 640K memory limit. This is a real problem in BBS's - the more users that are logged on, and the more forwarding jobs the BBS is engaging in, the more memory is needed to process all of this activity. Linux overcomes this barrier.

Linux also has networking abilities built right in - part of the operating system "kernel". This is particularly handy for gateway use - a computer running Linux will not require yet another computer to interface it to an internet provider. Some BBS programs will not work very well for this while operating under a DOS operating system, others cannot do it at all. Because networking is built right into Linux (and because the memory management is so good), this type of operation comes naturally to it.

Do you need Linux? If you are an average packet user, no. Most packet users are content to run their host or terminal program under DOS or Windows (or maybe even OS/2). They may only be interested in doing one thing at a time, and do not run a BBS or a gateway. However, there are several packet programs available for Linux, both simple and complex. But, Linux seems to be tailor-made for "power users" mostly, or anyone who has something they want done with a computer that is difficult or impossible to do with DOS.

Another consideration with Linux is that it is not an MS-DOS system, so the file system and the very nature of the operating system is different. You cannot pop a DOS disk into a machine running Linux and expect it to work. You must run DOS programs on it's DOS emulator, (or a Windows emulator for Windows programs) While some DOS and Windows programs run well with these emulators, not all such programs will run. And because Linux is not nearly as popular as DOS and Windows is, you will not find a vast quantity of ready-to-run software for it - somewhat of a disadvantage.

WISCONSIN AMATEUR PACKET RADIO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ HOME PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME BBS: _____ FREQ: _____ (Listing your home BBS is important)

Your HOME BBS should be a full service BBS, not your TNC's mailbox.

MY PACKET STATION OPERATES: _____ DAY _____ NIGHT _____ 24HRS

I OPERATE A: _____ DIGIPEATER WITH ALIAS OF: _____

_____ FULL SERVICE BBS

PRIMARY PACKET INTEREST/EXPERTISE IS: _____

_____ YES I want to receive Badger State Smoke Signals and I understand that part of my dues goes to pay this subscription. cost \$20.00

_____ NO I do not wish to receive Badger State Smoke Signals as a part of my WAPR membership. Cost \$15.00

COMPLETE and return this form with your check or money order - \$15.00 membership only or \$20.00 membership and Badger State Smoke Signals. made payable to W.A.P.R. (NOT payable to Bob Gedemer) to:

Bob Gedemer KA9JAC/WAPR
609 Wilson St.
Neenah, WI. 54956-3129

Can you use it? Of course you can, if you are up for a challenge. I only say that because you will have to learn the commands associated with an entirely new operating system. Remember the first time you used DOS? That memory will return to you if you investigate Linux. Although there are some familiar commands (some DOS commands have their origins in Unix), the syntax is a little different and there are a whole lot more of them. Linux also has a freeware Windowing system called X-Windows. So there is plenty to learn with this operating system.

Do you need anything special to operate Linux? Just a computer with a 386 or better processor. Memory is helpful, 8 megs is recommended, but 4 will work fine. I have run it on a 16 MHz 386 computer with 2 megs of RAM, and was surprised how fast that old 386 ran. There is also a "DOS" version of Linux that does not require you to completely reconfigure your computer. Oddly enough, this is called "DOS-Linux" or "Mini-Linux". This is an especially handy way to get a taste of Linux without completely dumping your existing operating system. The computer boots to MS-DOS, and when you get the C:\> prompt, Linux is started. Linux then loads, and stores files in a format that MS-DOS can read. While it this version is compatible in file storage, one can't run DOS programs this way.

So, if you are bored with your computer and want an interesting challenge that will reward you with some amazing capabilities, you may wish to investigate Linux. If you have Internet access, browse the Web page for the official Linux site: www.sunsite.unc.edu. If you are the slightest bit interested, you will find hours of reading material there. There are also several CD vendors that sell Linux "kits" for a nominal price. One vendor, Slackware, targets it's package toward amateurs and includes a lot of ham-related programs in it's package.

You can also find amateur radio packet programs to use with Linux from various Web sites. www.lantz.com is the official site for TNOS, for example.

So if you are up to a challenge and want to learn more about networking, look to Linux. If you are content with DOS and Windows, and you find your packet program meets your needs, then you may find your questions answered.

That's all for this series. 73 from Andy.

THE TEST POINT (continued from page3)

MINNESOTA TEST INFORMATION

From "The Ground Wave", Saint Paul Radio Club.

Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC)

Contact: Ed VanCleave, W0VC, (612) 636-0108

Test Site: St. Paul Technical College

235 Marshall Ave.

St Paul, MN

TESTING: First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m.

Anoka Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

Contact: Craig Johnson, AA0ZZ (612) 483-3143

Test Site: Blaine City Hall

9150 Central Ave NE

Blaine, MN

TESTING: Second Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Bloomington Office of Emergency Management

(Bloomington Amateur Radio Club (BARC))

Contact: Dan Royer, KE0OR (612) 888-9756

Test Site: Fire Station No. 1

94th St. & Nicollet Avenue S.

Bloomington, MN

TESTING: Fourth Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Valley Amateur Radio Club (VARC)

Contact: Bill Martin, A10D (612) 432-0438

Test Site: Hayes Community Center

14601 Hayes Road

Apple Valley, MN

TESTING: Second Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m.

W5YI Group

Contact: Dave Ranney, N0AXL (612) 542-2553

Test Site: Eden Prairie Library

479 Eden Prairie Drive

Eden Prairie, MN

TESTING: Third Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m.

SE Metro Area Radio Club (SEMARC)

Contact: Dave Harrell, K0BTE (612) 459-8678

Test Site: Cottage Grove fire Station 8641 80th

ST., S

Cottage Grove, MN

TESTING: Third Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

The times and places listed above are the usual time



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary
450 West 2nd Street • Reedsburg, WI 53959



The April 21, 1998 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the club secretary Raymond Matlosz, N9MLZ in the absence of the club's president, vice-president and treasurer.

The minutes of the March 17, 1998 meeting as published in BSSS were approved. There was no treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS: Jim Paul, N9LKY reported his participation at YODA a month and a half ago. He had a HF rig, 2 meters, and a tv camera on a remote control vehicle. He said the kids had a good time, particularly as they tried to drive the vehicle.

NEW BUSINESS: Club secretary passed around various mailings he had received in the mail, including a letter from Bob Johnson, WB9EIW who offered 15 boxes of magazines to the club which included QST, RADIO, CQ and Smoke Signals. The members present thought the club should accept Bob's generous offer. Peter Sweeney, WD9JIB, emergency coordinator gave an update on Sauk County's emergency system.

There was no drawing held for buck night as I did not have a current membership roster.

Just as the meeting closed at 8:15, an individual arrived to inquire about a ham class. He had attended the scheduled March 17 meeting (which had been cancelled

due to the weather) and came last night (which a local newspaper had reported the meeting date to be). He seems committed to getting a ham license.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 19, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in room 14 in the Baraboo Civic Center.

Sincerely,
Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ
club secretary

The following members and guests were present:

Joseph Rowland	N9PRF	Portage
Jim Paul	N9LKY	Baraboo
George G. Gabay	N9QQR	New Lisbon
David Spearing	KB9CSW	Portage
David Estes	KB9QDE	Reedsburg
Peter Sweeney	WD9JIB	Reedsburg
Thomas Harrison	N9PQJ	Reedsburg
Art Kleefisch	W9WSS	Baraboo
Leonard Wagner	N9XJG	Baraboo
Raymond Matlosz	N9MLZ	Reedsburg
Richard	(guest)	Baraboo

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Leonard Wagner	N9XJG	Baraboo
Raymond Matlosz	N9MLZ	Reedsburg
Richard	(guest)	Baraboo

and place for each VE team. Occasionally, sessions are canceled or changed. It is a good idea to call ahead to confirm the test time and place

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to K9EN at the address shown on page 2.



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FOR SALE: Ten-Tec OMNI-V, model 562, model 705/705A electret microphone, model 1140 magnetic circuit breaker, model 2389 antenna tuner. MFJ memory keyer grand master model 484C. Betty Phelps Refior, AA9IQ, 435 W Starin Rd. #118aa, Whitewater, WI 53190-1133

FOR SALE: Colorful United States Stamps. 100 all different. \$1.00 postpaid. Richard Regent, K9GDF, 5003 South 26th St., Milwaukee, WI 53221.



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Swapfest Information Line: (608) 245-8890

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SWAPFEST 98

July 11, 1998

(Held every July)

American Legion Park

Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI

(414) 762-3235

P. O. Box 102

Extension 58

South Milwaukee, WI 53172

FOX CITIES HAMFEST

Sunday, November 8, 1998

Starlite Club, Hwy. 55 north of Kaukauna

HAMFEST INFO: Chad Pennings, N9PRC

1912 Russett Ct., Apt. 7 • Appleton WI 54914

(920) 993-0485

EXAM INFO: Larry Siebers, KD9IA • (920) 759-1167

• [HTTP://W9ZL.AMPR.ORG](http://W9ZL.AMPR.ORG)

Lakeshore Hamfest

and Computer Swapfest

Manitowoc County Expo

Intersection of Hwys. 42-151 and I-43 on Cty. Hwy. R

Saturday, May 9, 1998

For more information, call:

Glenn, AA9MT: 920-684-7096

Red, N9GHE: 920-684-9097

ManCoRad Radio Club • P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204

TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS

HAMFEST 1998

YOUR SPRING FAVORITE!

Sunday, March 15, 1998

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

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973 E. 1st St., Junction City WI 54443-9614 • (715) 457-2506

E-MAIL: jfw9jn@tzn.net

Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club

HAMFEST

Saturday, July 11, 1998 8:00 AM

Eau Claire County Exposition Center

Advance Tickets \$ 5.00 at the door \$ 6.00

Tables \$-10.00 - Tailgate \$ 5.00

S.A.S.E. to: ECARC

P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867

<http://www.ecarc.org>

RACINE AMATEUR RADIO AND COMPUTER SHOW

Sunday, July 26, 1998

8 A.M. - 2 P.M.

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TABLES \$8.00

Advance Tickets SASE and \$4.00

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Ozaukee Radio Club

20TH ANNUAL RADIO AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST Saturday, May 2, 1998

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center

Intersection of Highway 60 and County I

Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno,

5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222

Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club

W58 N985 Essex Drive, Cedarburg, WI 53012-1439

Circus City Swapfest

Sponsored by The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

Saturday August 8, 1998 • 7 a.m. - noon
Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI

Vendors • Concessions
Camping • Free Parking
Tail Gate Area

\$4 - Advanced
\$5 - At Gate
8 Foot Tables - \$5

Steve Schulze, N9UDO

(608) 356-2313/356-4777

<http://www.thelorax.com/~ssschulze/hamfest.htm>

Bill Klinkner, N9KXX

(608) 643-8908/643-6453

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

AUCTION

February 23, 1999 • 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Post 53 • 634 Water Street

Eau Claire, WI

CONTACT:

Steve Hart, KA9OMC
E616 810th Ave.

715-665-2374
Knapp, WI 54749

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